EERIE #127

EERIE

A WARREN MAGAZINE

DEC. 1981

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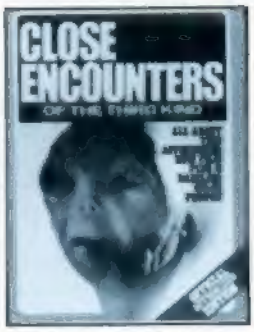

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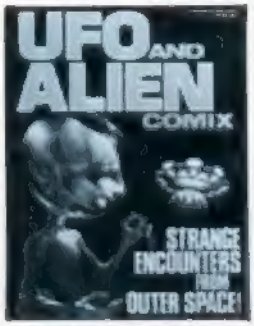

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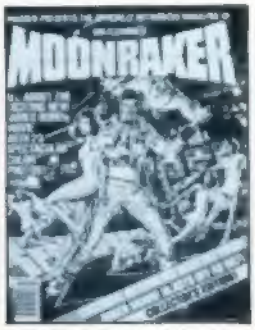

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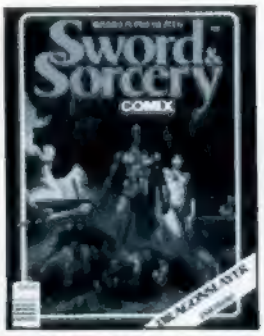

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EERIE®

NUMBER 127 DECEMBER 1981

DEAR COUSIN EERIE 4

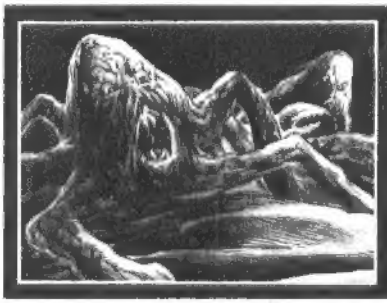
Most readers were wildly enthusiastic about our all-Neal Adams issue, praising Mr. Adams for his skill and versatility, and Archie Goodwin for the exciting stories he wrote. But there are some who maintain that "the workmanlike building to a surprise ending" has had its day, and that comic readers want action on every single panel!

KING OF THE JUNGLE 5

The bloodthirsty, money-hungry poachers were carving a horrid path through the jungle! Most animals were helpless against their shotguns and were left to die slowly in the broiling African sun! Justin King was determined that such men would no longer hold sway in his jungle! Justice would be done...by himself, or by the headhunters!

REUBEN YOUNGBLOOD 20

At midnight on the wharf, with blackness a tight shroud around him and all the good citizens asleep, every slight sound unnerved the smuggler. That clicking could have been rats, or restless hoboes...or the bolt of a machine gun being pulled back! This is the Roaring Twenties, after all, and men's lives are cheap! Can booze be worth this danger?



MERLIN 33

Harry Houdini was considered the world's greatest magician and mystic! Houdini believed it too...until he met Merlin! Such uncanny power the man possessed! Together the sorcerers were forced to confront a hellish danger to mankind, as unholy beings were crawling up from a slimey pit, seeking to dominate the world of men!

HAGGARTH 47

Death followed the trail of the Sacred Parchment...death, greed and lust for power. Only Haggarth was immune...the power of the Gods meant nothing to him! He had a more important cause...to end the reign of villainous King Thall! Now they faced each other in a final duel...Haggarth's hungry blade against Thall's savage leopard!

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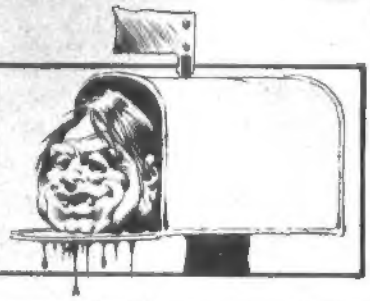


Your all **Neal Adams** reprint issue only served to point out the tragic decline in quality that comics in general, and **Warren** magazines in particular, have suffered in the last five or ten years, through no fault of **Mr. Adams.**

The combination of a writer like **Archie Goodwin** and an artist like **Neal Adams** produced the finest works since the old **EC** days. The writing was clear and contributed to a thematic whole. The artwork was clear, clean, dynamic, and stylish without interfering with the clarity of the story being told.

Please forgive the rather serious and academic tone of my remarks, but I feel that, even in the much-maligned field of comics, there are serious artists like **Neal Adams** and **Archie Goodwin** who should not be forgotten by older readers or ignored by new ones.

C.B. FIELDER
Boston, Mass.

"Thrillkill" in **EERIE** #125 was one of the best comic stories I have ever read. I had always thought that in-depth probing of the mind and heart of man was the province of the novel, which it is. But now I see that comics can do the same. It is a pity that such stories do not appear more often, that such a marvelous medium is wasted on wap-'em zap-'em action exclusively.

Author **Jim Stenstrum** explored the motivations of a diseased mind. He made it look easy, and he made it entertaining. He was well served by the wonderful artwork of **Neal Adams,** which counterpointed the psychological study with tense action of the preying sniper and the retaliation of the police.

I like comic books as much as the next guy. I enjoy the escapist fare of superheroes, unearthly creatures, and flashing blades. But it is stories like "Thrillkill" that make me truly proud to be a fan.

JACK MONCREIFFE
Berea, Ohio

How could you? How could you interrupt the all-important hijinks of my main man, **Haggarth,** for a silly issue devoted to the admittedly talented **Neal Adams? Haggarth** is closing in on **King Thall,** I can almost feel his razor-sharp blade hewing that power-mad runt in twain! I **live** for that moment, and here you interrupt the proceedings in the interests of comic history! How **could** you?

MARVIN BERG
Miami, Fla.

I was surprised in more ways than one by the stories contained in **EERIE** #125. I was at first dismayed to see that they were obviously old and reprinted stories. I figured they had nothing to offer me.

I was **wrong!** The overall surprise and delight of the issue was that it was one of the best issues in a long, long time; it was a refreshing change from the series format, which can sometimes be frustrating and boring.

And then each story provided its own surprise. The story "Fair Exchange" is a perfect example of what I mean. The idea of an old man trying to find himself a younger body to inhabit, being willing to do anything to get one, is a well worn concept. But author **Archie Goodwin** managed a unique twist; the fact that it surprised me, **surprised me!**

Artist **Neal Adams** demonstrated versatility and skill in each of the stories. No two looked alike.

In the future I will not be so quick to dismiss the efforts of the time-honored masters of this highly competitive and selective field. **Neal Adams** has gained himself one true-blue, brand-new fan!

ARTHUR LITTON
Seattle, Wash.

If ever I saw a complete compilation of the field of horror comics, **EERIE** # 125 was it! The issue had everything! Vampires, zombies, mad scientists, dinosaurs, damsels in distress, cannibals, maniacs on the loose, passion, betrayal, murder, greed...the **works!**

What really thrilled me, however, was the fact that the issue was mostly authored by the great **Archie Goodwin** and totally rendered by the immortal **Neal Adams!** Here are two gentlemen who know the meaning of the words'discipline'and 'taste.' In this often self-indulgent and crude field, this is a very rare phenomenon indeed. It proves that we need look no further than the recent past to find the state of the art in comics today! Good job!

M. LAWSON
New York, N.Y.

Dear Cousin Eerie,
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd St.
New York, N.Y. 10016

There are pro's and con's to the matter of reprints. The negative argument was amply exemplified in the cover of **EERIE** #125, a reprint of an old **Richard Corben** cover. It is a fine piece of work, admittedly, but we readers have been chiding **Warren Publishing** to employ the talents of new artists, and yet they turn a **deaf ear!** We want to see new works! No more reprint covers, please!

The other side of the coin is illustrated in the contents of the same magazine: an all-reprint issue of **Neal Adams** stories. These were well worth reviewing since the quality of the stories was consistently good. And, for once, the contents of the magazine were in keeping with the title **EERIE.** They were all horror stories (with the exception of "Thrillkill" which was horror in a different vein).

If you are planning issues featuring the work of one artist, might I suggest **Wally Wood?**

ALEC STEVENS
Cola, S.C.

I had never seen anyone so excited about a comic book as my friend was when he got a hold of **EERIE** #125. He urged me to read it, assuring me that **Archie Goodwin** and **Neal Adams** were some kind of gods in the pantheon of comiodom.

Well I read the damn thing and I can't agree. Sure, it was fine for its day, but its day is over, finito, kaput! This workmanlike building to a surprise (?) ending has **had it!** Readers nowadays have seen all that stuff many times over. We want something new, something imaginative, visually and verbally. Even if it fails (as **Budd Lewis** and **Bob Morello** failed dismally in the "Mah 'Sess" series) at least something bold and innovative was attempted. We don't want to be forced to wade through six pages of boring exposition to come to a limp and predictable payoff. We want something delivered on every page, every panel!

EERIE #125 was a "Collector's Edition" all right. But then, collectors accumulate **junk!**

T. M. M.
Maplewood, N.J.

I was most impressed with the versatility of **Neal Adams,** as demonstrated in his special issue, **EERIE** #125. Each and every story boasted a different art style, from the moody inks of "The Curse of the Vampire" to the bold charcoal finish of "Vodoo Drum!" His characters were meticulously individualized, his action sequences were dramatic and exciting.

I was not that familiar with **Neal Adams** before I stumbled on this issue, but I hope to have more of his work to look forward to in **Warren** magazines.

JOEL GELAINE
Houston, Tex.

Authors: WILL RICHARDSON and RICH MARGOPOULOS/Illustrator: RUDY NEBRES

BDAM! BAM!
JUSTIN! LISTEN! IT'S GUNSHOTS!
THOSE AREN'T ORDINARY SHOTS K'NOMO! THOSE ARE FROM AN ELEPHANT GUN! IT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING ...POACHERS!
BLAM! BDAM!
THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY IF I CATCH THEM RED-HANDED!
COME ON NAMBA! HERE'S WHERE WE EARN OUR PAY!
THE BUTCHERS ARE GETTING INCREASINGLY BOLDER! AND IT'S NOT JUST A LOCALIZED PROBLEM! IT'S SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS THE ENTIRE CONTINENT!
AT THE RATE WILDLIFE IS BEING DEPLETED THERE WON'T BE A SINGLE ELEPHANT, RHINO, OR LION ALIVE BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY!
ALL THE ENDANGERED SPECIES WILL BE GONE!
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THEY MIGHT AS WELL BLACKTOP ALL OF AFRICA AND TURN IT OVER TO THE DEVELOPERS!
BAM! DDAM! BAM!
MORE RIFLE REPORTS!
SOUNDS LIKE A WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER!
LET'S MOVE, FELLA! FASTER!

TENSE MINUTES DRAG INEXORABLY BY...AND THEN, JUSTIN KING SIGHTS HIS HUMAN QUARRY!
IT'S POACHERS ALL RIGHT! NO ONE ELSE WOULD BRING A RIVER BARGE THIS FAR UP RIVER!
THEY'VE NO DOUBT ANCHORED THE BOAT AND GONE ON A KILLING SPREE!
THE PROBLEM FOR ME IS HOW TO GET ACROSS THE RIVER TO ARREST THEM! THERE'S TOO MANY CROCS HERE EVEN FOR NAMBA TO HANDLE!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY...
...BUT I KNOW A SHALLOW PLACE WHERE WE CAN EASILY FORD THE RIVER!
THAT'S RIGHT, BIG FELLA! YOU KNOW THE WAY!

WHOOPS! I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL I ONLY SKIRT HEADHUNTER COUNTRY!
THE NATIVES ARE FANATICS ABOUT PROTECTING THEIR LAND FROM UNWANTED INTRUDERS!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'LL PROBABLY TOLERATE ME...THEY DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO INTRUSIONS BY OUTSIDERS, ESPECIALLY IF THOSE INTRUDERS ARE WHITE!
USING A SUBMERGED SANDBAR FOR A MAKESHIFT BRIDGE, BOTH MAN AND LUMBERING BEHEMOTH REACH THE OPPOSITE BANK...
...WHERE THE SMELL OF DEATH SUDDENLY DRIVES THE BIG BULL ELEPHANT WILD!
THERE'S A SCAVENGER NOW! LET'S GET HIM, BOY!
TRUMPETING A DEFIANT CHALLENGE, THE HULKING NAMBA THUNDERS FORWARD, ITS LEGS LIKE THRASHING PILLARS...
A WARDEN--! IT CAN'T BE! NOT WAY OUT HERE!
...PROMPTING A BLOOD-STAINED POACHER TO SPIN ABOUT IN STUNNED DISBELIEF, HIS FINGERS HOVERING MENACINGLY OVER THE TRIGGER OF HIS WEAPON!
YOU MURDERING BUTCHER!
YOUR KIND MAKES ME SICK!
H-HEY! UNNH!

CRA-AAAAK!
AT LEAST I'M GIVING YOU A *FIGHTING CHANCE*, SCUM...
...WHICH IS *MORE* THAN YOU GAVE THOSE HELPLESS *ELEPHANTS!*
SUDDENLY...KING HEARS A *RIFLE BOLT* CLICK *BEHIND* HIM! HE *WHIRLS*...AND INSTANTLY *FALLS*...
...AS LEADEN *FIRE LANCES* THE SIDE OF HIS *SKULL!*
KABLAM!
I... I'VE *KILLED* HIM!
BUT *NOW*... THE OLD BULL'S *COMING* AT ME!
YOU TWO! GET *OUT* OF HERE WITH THAT *IVORY!*
UHH-!
I'LL HANDLE THE *TUSKER!*
EVEN IF IT MEANS *PUMPING* A *FULL CLIP* INTO HIM!
BAM! KABAM!
DROP, DAMN YOU! *DROP!*
BAM! BA-DAM!

GREAT GOING, *PARD!* YOU REALLY *SAVED* MY *BUTT* THAT TIME!
YOUR BUTT, *NOTHING!* I WAS ONLY *SAVING* MY SHARE OF THE *IVORY,* TURK! THAT STUFF IS *WORTH* A SMALL *FORTUNE!*
AS FOR *THIS* GUY, HE'S *BLEEDING* WORSE THAN A *STUCK PIG!*
SO WHAT IF WE'VE *HAD* TO *KILL* ONE MAN? IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS *RIGHT,* THIS *TERRITORY* IS OURS FOR THE *TAKING!*
HEY! YOU GUTLESS *WORMS* GOING TO *HIDE* IN THERE ALL DAY? START *LUGGING* THAT *IVORY!*
JUST *THINK,* TURK! THERE'S *MORE* WHERE THIS *CAME* FROM...LOTS *MORE!*
WE'LL BE *RICH!* RICHER THAN *CROESUS!*
YEAH! COME ON, LET'S *LOAD* UP THE *RIVERBOAT!*

I CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK FOR A SECOND HAUL!
THE SOUND OF THE RECEDING ENGINE BECOMES FAINTER AND FAINTER, MUTED BY DISTANCE...
...STILL, IT IS ENOUGH TO ROUSE THE WOUNDED KING!
UNNH–! GOT ME GOOD! IT'S MESSY BUT NOT DEEP!
THAT NOISE! THOSE LOUSY MONSTERS ARE GETTING AWAY!
CHUGGA! PUT! PUT! PUT! PUT!
BUT FORGET ABOUT ME! POOR NAMBA! HE...HE'S DEAD! AND...AND THOSE STINKING MURDERERS CUT OFF HIS TUSKS!
MEMORIES: THEY RUSH UPON KING! HE REMEMBERS HOW HE FOUND HIS LOYAL FRIEND WANDERING AS A TERROR-STRUCK BABY IN THE JUNGLE! HOW HE RAISED HIM AND HOW THEY SHARED COUNTLESS ADVENTURES TOGETHER!
GOD!
HOW THEY'LL PAY!
YAAARRGGH!
THAT CRY–! LIKE A TORMENTED BEAST IN HELL!
IT IS THE SLAIN MAN'S GHOST! PRAY IT DOES NOT FIND US
CAN YOU BEAT THAT?
THEY THINK THE GUY WE WASTED IS GOING TO GET REVENGE ON US!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, OMAR? THEY'RE IGNORANT SAVAGES, AIN'T THEY?

FIRST I'VE GOT TO *WASH* AND *CLEAN* MY WOUND!
IT'S BEEN *HOURS* SINCE THEY *LEFT*...BUT IT'S *SUMMER* AND THE RIVER S UNUSUALLY *LOW!*
THEY COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TOO *FAR* IN THAT *SKOW!*
BUT THERE S ONLY ONE WAY TO CATCH UP TO THEM .
.. THE WAY OUR REMOTE *ANCESTORS* DID
THROUGH THE *TREETOPS!*
A SWINGING *SHADOW*, FLITTING THROUGH AN ARBOREAL TWILIGHT, *JUSTIN KING* TRAVERSES THE TERRAIN *FASTER* THAN HE EVER COULD ATOP A PLODDING *ELEPHANT!*
AH! THERE THEY *ARE!* SO FAR, IT'S BEEN A REAL *PLEASURE CRUISE* FOR THEM!
I THINK IT'S TIME THEY WERE *TAUGHT* A LITTLE JUNGLE *JUSTICE!*

AS THE IVORY-LADEN VESSEL SLOWLY CHURNS ITS WAY BETWEEN THE NARROW, GROWTH-CHOKED BANKS...

...A VINE, MORE LIKE A HANGMAN'S NOOSE, SUDDENLY SNAKES DOWN AND SNARES ONE OF THE STARTLED BEARERS
...CHOKING AND LIFTING HIM NECK OUT OF THE BOAT

YOU SEE THAT?!
I DID, OMAR! AND I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WE'VE GOTTA REVERSE THE ENGINES, GO BACK QUICK!

NO TIME, B WANA!
THE CROCODILES WILL REACH HIM BEFORE WE CAN!

GODS OF MY FATHERS I'M GOING TO DIE!
C-COME BACK! DON'T LET ME-!

I'M FALLING!

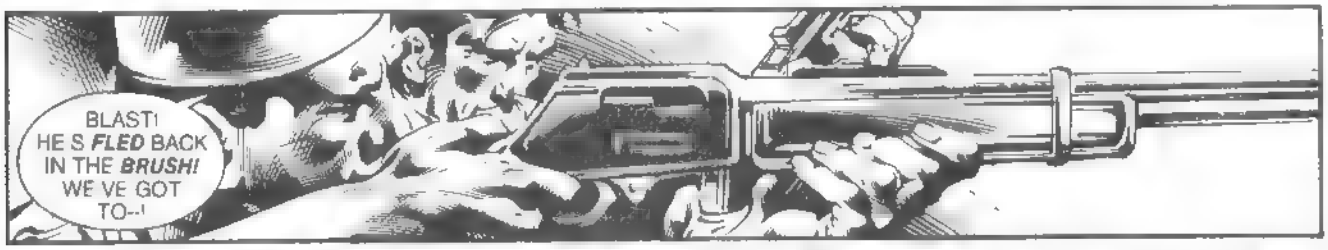
SPLASH!
ONE DOWN...

...THREE TO GO!
IT'S HIM! KING'S GHOST! H-HE'S AFTER US!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, G'BHUTO?
IT IT'S THE DEAD MAN... I SAW HIM!
KING? IT COULDN'T BE POSSIBLE! C-COULD IT?
I NEVER MISS, TURK! YOU KNOW THAT! TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.. WHEN I KILL THEM, THEY STAY DEAD!
YEAH? WELL, IF HE'S DEAD, THEN WHAT IN HELL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
THERE! WEDGING THIS LOG ACROSS THE RIVER'LL CUT THEIR TRIP SHORT!
HERE THEY COME NOW!
WELL, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, OMAR! I'M GONNA MOVE THIS TUB OUTTA HERE!
AND THE SOONER THE BETTER!
SUIT YOURSELF, TURK!

LOOK! YOU SEE ...I WAS RIGHT!

I'LL BE DAMNED! THE WARDEN'S STILL KICKING!

BAM! BAM!
YOU NEVER MISS, HUH, OMAR!
ONE SIDE, TURK! WITH YOU IN THE WAY, I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM!


BLAST! HE'S FLED BACK IN THE BRUSH! WE'VE GOT TO--!

PRRRRIP!
W-WHAT THE HELL!

KRAAAK!
DAMN! WE'VE HIT A SUNKEN LOG...IT'S TEARING THE HULL LIKE TISSUE PAPER!

WE'RE GOING DOWN!
SPLASH!

AAARRGHH!
FORGET HIM! HE'S A GONERI SWIM [illegible] IT.
BEFORE THE CROCS GET US, TOO!
AS OMAR PADDLES FURIOUSLY TOWARD A MOSSY BANK, A SPEAR [illegible] SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE...
...IMPALES HIM, STAINING THE WATER WITH GUSHING CLOUDS OF CRIMSON...
COLOR THAT, IN TURN, INVITES A MORE COLD-BLOODED FORM OF DEATH!
K-THUCK
CRUNCH!
I...I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT AND...
I LOST MY RIFLE! I'M HELPLESS!

MY GOD... I-IT S YOU!

PLEASE! I'M UNARMED! DON T HURT ME! I BEG YOU !
NOT ONLY WILL I NOT HURT YOU, I'LL EVEN LET YOU GO... WITH MY BLESSINGS!

YOU YOU WILL?!
SURE! THE LOCAL HEADHUNTERS, WHO REVERE THEIR ANIMALS, WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR ME!

YOU CAN'T TURN ME OVER TO THEM! THEY'RE SAVAGES! THAT'S INHUMAN!
YOU CAN'T!!

JUSTIN KING SLOWLY MAKES HIS WAY BACK TO HIS ISOLATED JUNGLE HEADQUARTERS...
AIEEEEEEE!

BEFORE BEING ABRUPTLY CUT OFF!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, KING AND HIS ASSISTANT BURY THE REMAINS OF NAMBA UNDER A HOT, SWELTERING SUN!

I'M SORRY YOU MISSED ALL THE EXCITEMENT! BUT I COULDN'T TAKE THE TIME TO GO FOR HELP!

I'LL MISS NAMBA VERY MUCH! HE WAS A ...WELL, FRIEND!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, JUSTIN! BUT... LOOK! VULTURES! THERE'S MORE DEAD TO BURY!

NO! LEAVE THOSE CORPSES ALONE! THE HEADHUNTERS WANT TO DISCOURAGE OTHERS FROM STEALING IVORY!

BUT YOU NEVER DID TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST THIEF YOU LET GO!

WHY, HE'S RIGHT DOWN THERE ON THAT BONE PILE...

THE ULTIMATE WARNING TO POACHERS EVERYWHERE!

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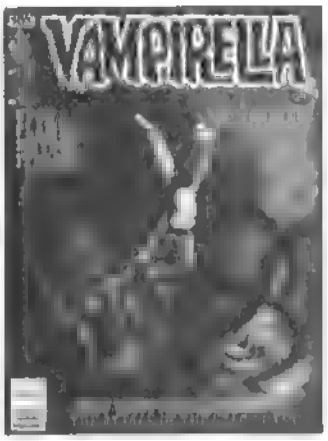
WARREN MAGAZINES



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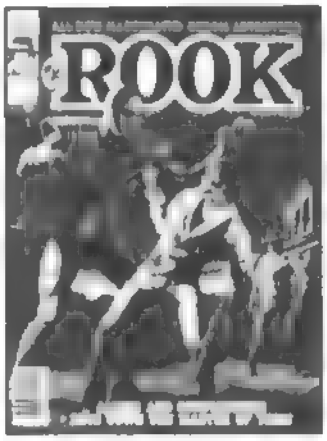

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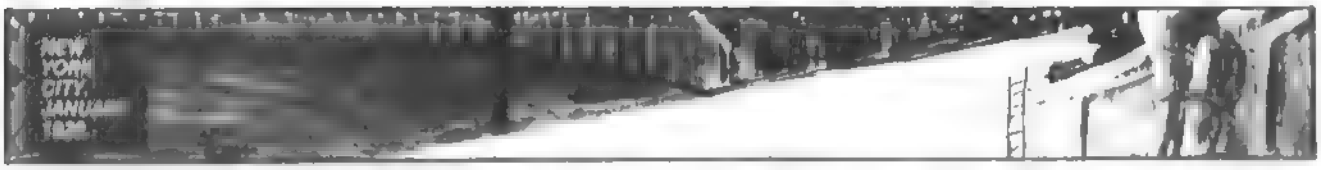
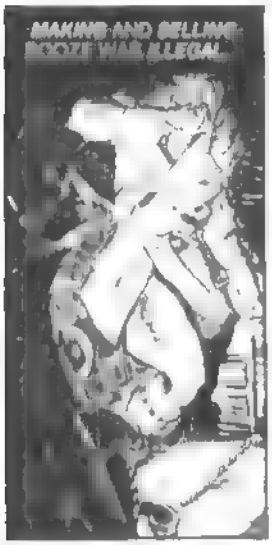
prologue


NEW YORK CITY, JANUARY 1929.

ELEVEN YEARS SINCE THE WAR TO END ALL WARS ENDED.

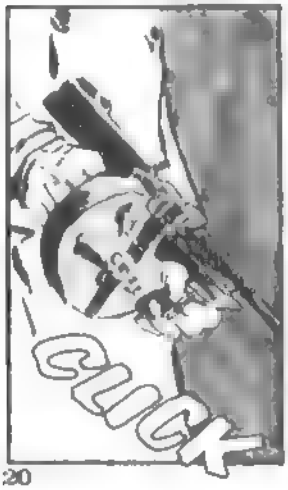
TEN MONTHS BEFORE THE STOCK MARKET FELL THROUGH THE FLOOR!


MAKING AND SELLING BOOZE WAS ILLEGAL.

BUT THERE WERE WAYS!

THOSE WHO ALWAYS WERE WILLING TO RISK PRISON
HEAVY FOR JUST BOURBON, AIN'T IT?

OR DEATH FOR A LITTLE EXTRA DOUGH!
'AT WAS ONE HEAVY SHIPMENT! HOW BOUT A SIP OF MY PRIVATE STOCK?

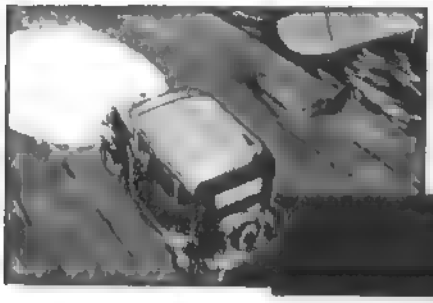

CLICK

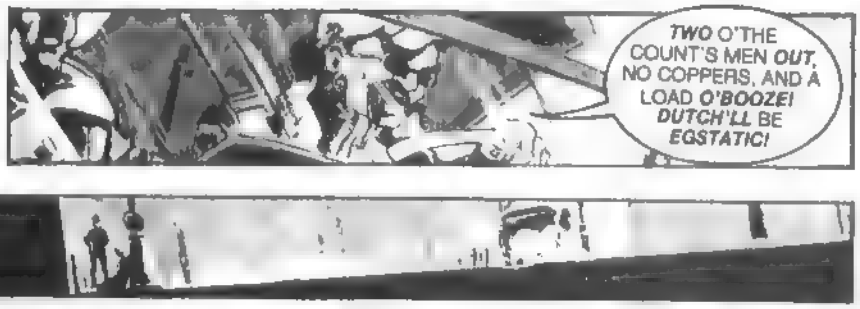
I SAID A SIP!

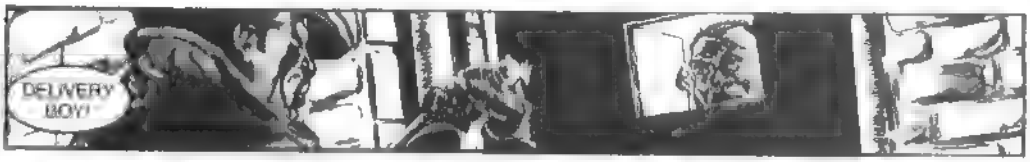
SAY DID YOU HEAR SOMETHIN'?
CLICK!
NAH! FORGET IT!

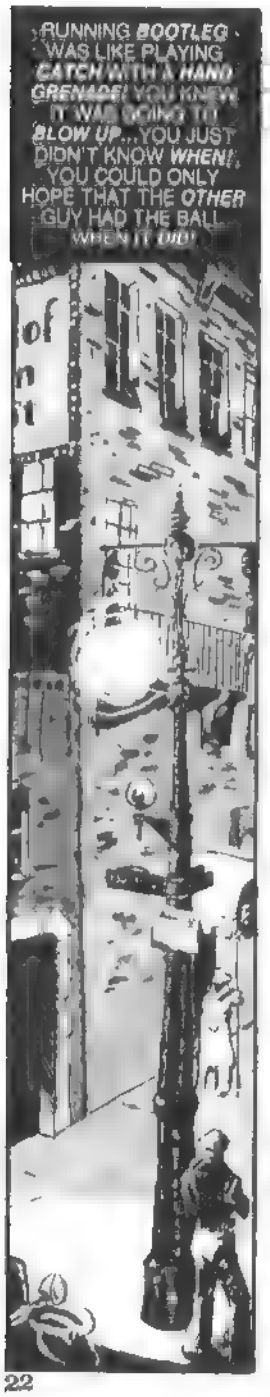
REUBEN YOUNGBLOOD

Author: BUDD LEWIS/Illustrator: HOWARD CHAYKIN

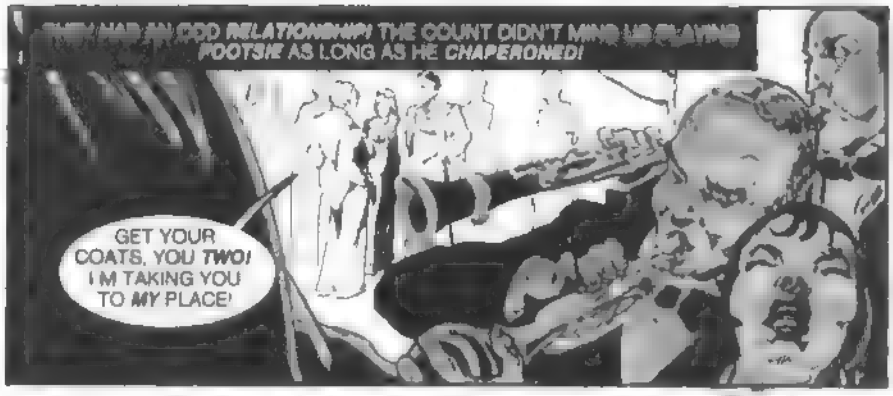






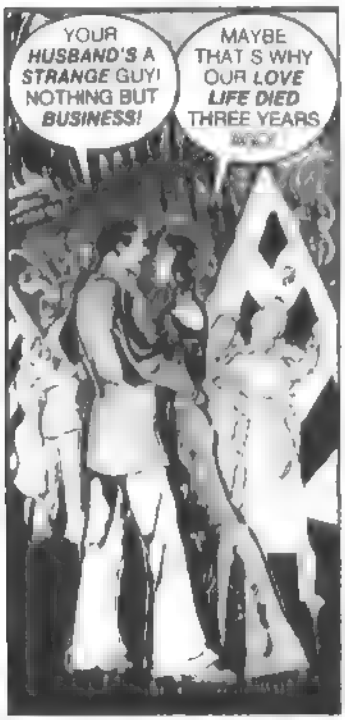


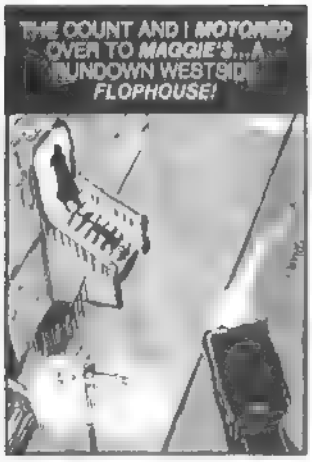
ON THE *SURFACE*, BOOTLEGGING WAS A *GENTLEMAN'S* GAME, VERY POLITE AND FRIENDLY! FOR EXAMPLE, *"THE COUNT," MAXIMILIAN,* WAS VISITING THE CLUB OF HIS *RIVAL, DUTCH,* THE VERY EVENING THAT DUTCH *HIT* THE COUNT'S SUPPLY!



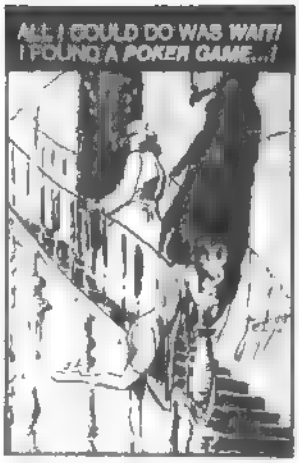
WHILE THE THREE OF US WINED, DINED, AND [illegible] EACH OTHER, DUTCH LEPEAR WAS BREAKING OPEN THE COUNT'S HIJACKED CRATE AND MAKING A STARTLING DISCOVERY!

LEAVING DUTCH'S CLUB, WE ARRIVED AT MAX'S!




THE COUNT AND I MOTORED OVER TO MAGGIE'S...A RUNDOWN WESTSIDE FLOPHOUSE!

LOOKING FOR DUTCH LEFEAR! HE'S EXPECTING ME!
ROOM SIX. MR MAXIMILIAN! HE SAID TO GO UP ALONE!

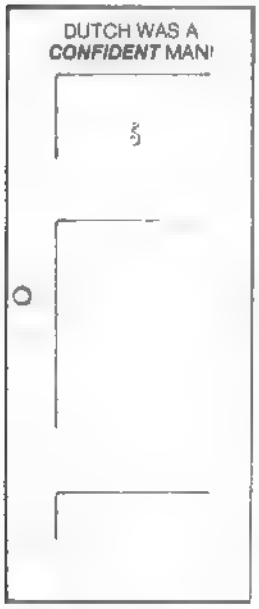

ALL I COULD DO WAS WAIT! I FOUND A POKER GAME...!

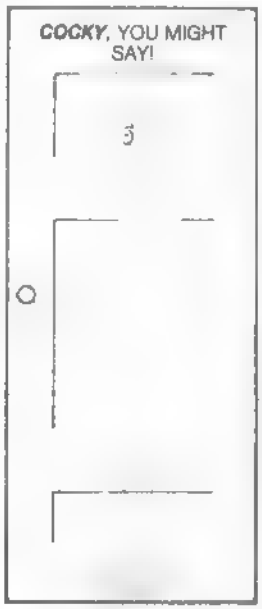
MAX FOUND ROOM SIX!

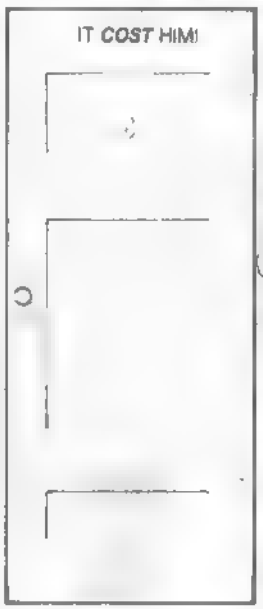
MAX COME IN!

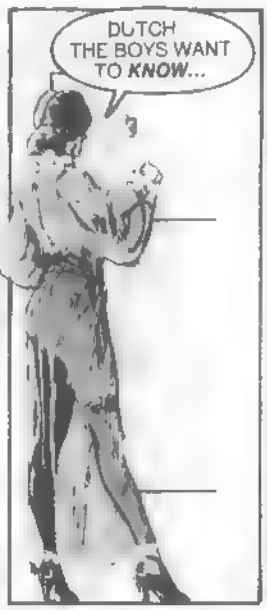
WE HAVE MANY SECRETS TO SHARE...

...YOU AND I!


DUTCH WAS A CONFIDENT MAN!

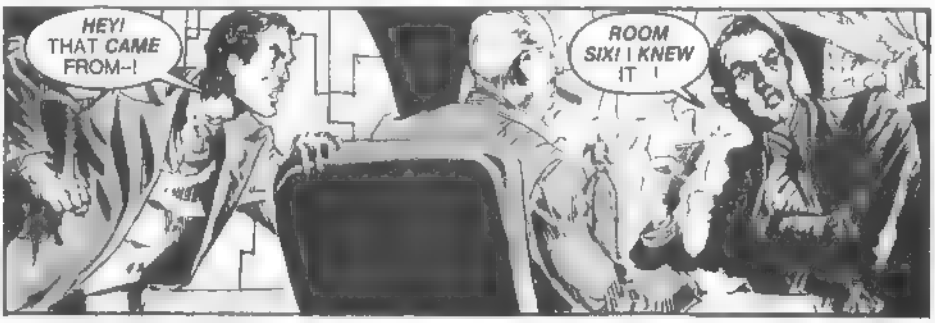

COCKY, YOU MIGHT SAY!

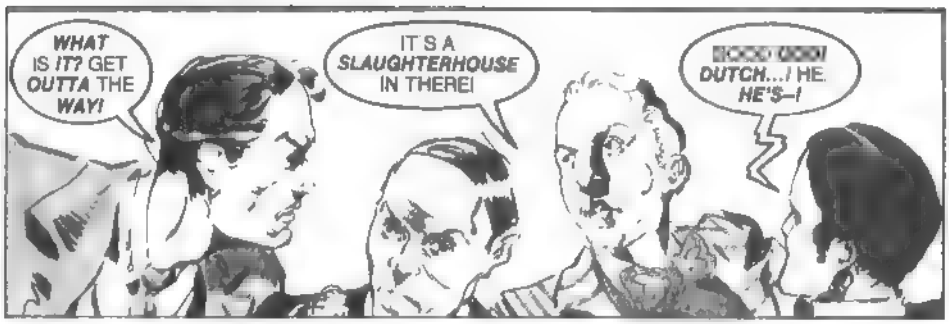

IT COST HIM!


DUTCH THE BOYS WANT TO KNOW...

IF YOU NEED ANYTHING? DUTCH IT'S SIX A.M.!

EEEEEEEE!


HEY! THAT CAME FROM--!
ROOM SIX! I KNEW IT!

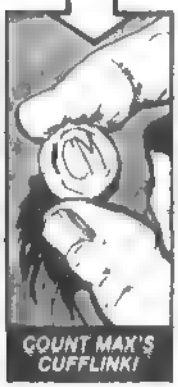

WHAT IS IT? GET OUTTA THE WAY!
IT S A SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN THERE!
DUTCH...! HE. HE'S–!

THE MEN HADN'T LIED! IT WAS DUTCH...HIS THROAT HAD BEEN RIPPED OR BITTEN OUT...AND HIS SILVER-HANDLED WALKING STICK HAD BEEN SHOVED CLEAN THROUGH THE BACKSIDE OF THE WOUND!

BUT THE COUNT WAS A GENTLEMAN! GENTLEMEN USE PEARL-HANDLED REVOLVERS OR POISON! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HIM!
THIS IS THE WORK OF AN ANIMAL!

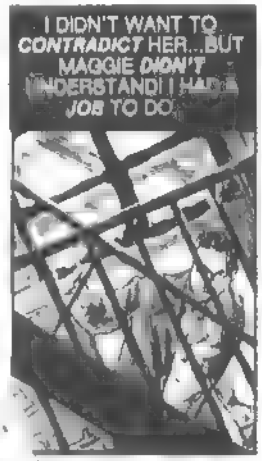
WHAT'S THIS?
A CLUMP OF GARLIC .. AND A CRUCIFIX?

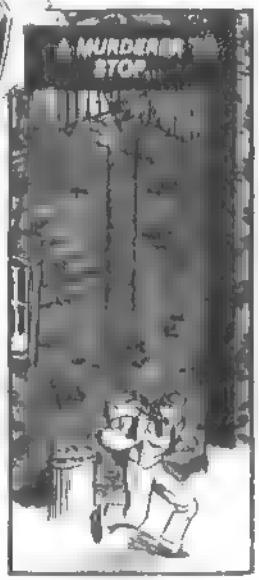
MEANINGLESS CLUES...OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO THROW ME OFF THE TRAIL! BUT WHAT'S DUTCH GOT IN HIS CLENCHED FIST?


COUNT MAX'S CUFFLINK!

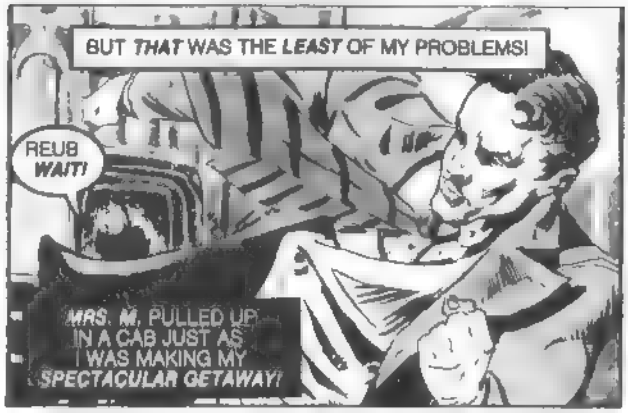
MAXIE! IT REALLY WAS YOU!

LOOK, MAGGIE... CALL THE COPS! TELL THEM WHAT S HAPPENED HERE! I . I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO!
SURE, HANDSOME! I UNDERSTAND! DUTCH'S BOYS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN IT ON THE LAM!


I DIDN'T WANT TO CONTRADICT HER...BUT MAGGIE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND! I HAD A JOB TO DO.


MURDERER STOP...

..AND AN UPSET STOMACH FROM THE SIGHT OF ALL THAT BLOOD!


BUT THAT WAS THE LEAST OF MY PROBLEMS!
REUB WAIT!
MRS. M. PULLED UP IN A CAB JUST AS I WAS MAKING MY SPECTACULAR GETAWAY!

ONE OF DUTCH'S GUNMEN IS LOOKING FOR MAX! HE HE CAME TO THE HOUSE, REUB! HE'S GOING TO KILL US ALL!

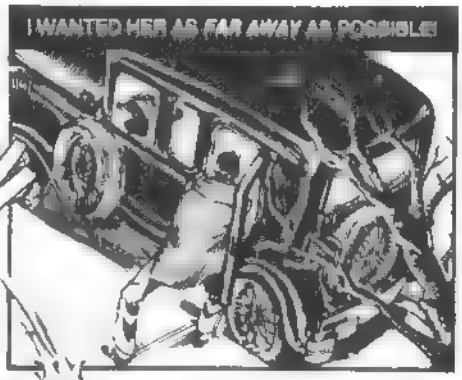
MAX IS IN DEEP! BUT WE COULD STILL GET OUT CLEAN!

WE CAN RUN TOGETHER! HE DOESN'T OWN US, REUB! OH, .I'M SO AFRAID!

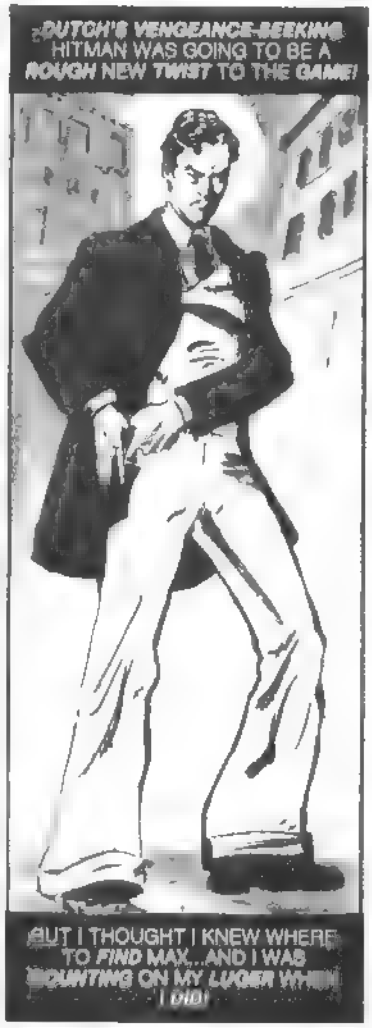
DON'T YOU WANT TO? DON'T YOU WANT ME? WHAT ARE YOU DOING...

. WITH MY SCARF... MMMM!

SHE WAS TOO FRIGHTENED NOT TO HAVE BEEN INNOCENT! UNDERFOOT, SHE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN HURT!
POW!
IT WAS JUST A LITTLE SMOOCH...AND A LITTLE TAP! BUT IT PROBABLY SAVED HER LIFE!


I WANTED HER AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE!

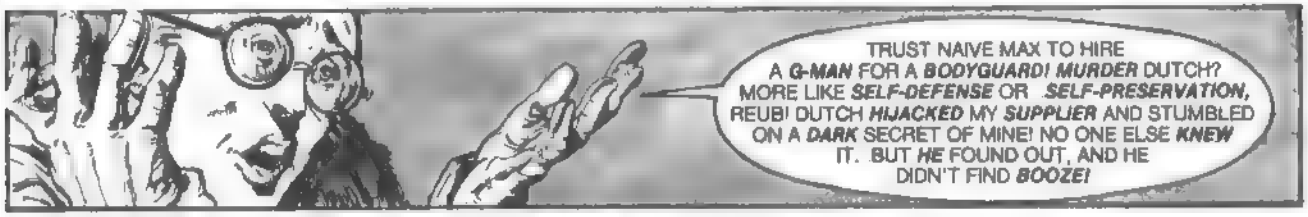
I RECALLED DUTCH'S THROAT. THE COUNT WAS NO ONE TO DOUBLECROSS!
DRIVE HER AROUND TIL SHE COMES TO...THEN DUCK, CAUSE, BOY, IS SHE GOING TO BE MAD!


DUTCH'S VENGEANCE-SEEKING HITMAN WAS GOING TO BE A ROUGH NEW TWIST TO THE GAME!
BUT I THOUGHT I KNEW WHERE TO FIND MAX...AND I WAS COUNTING ON MY LUGER WHEN I DID!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, CAUGHT UP WITH HIM JUST OUTSIDE OF DUTCH'S SPEAKEASY! HE HAD HIS PRECIOUS HOOTCH!
MAX!

GOVERNMENT AGENT, MAX! TURN SLOW!

I HAVE YOU FOR BOOTLEGGING... AND MURDER!


TRUST NAIVE MAX TO HIRE A G-MAN FOR A BODYGUARD! MURDER DUTCH? MORE LIKE SELF-DEFENSE OR SELF-PRESERVATION, REUB! DUTCH HIJACKED MY SUPPLIER AND STUMBLED ON A DARK SECRET OF MINE! NO ONE ELSE KNEW IT. BUT HE FOUND OUT, AND HE DIDN'T FIND BOOZE!

HE FOUND BLOOD! WE NEED IT TO SURVIVE! AND NOW YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! I'M SORRY, REUB! REALLY!
UH UH, MAX! DON'T DO IT!

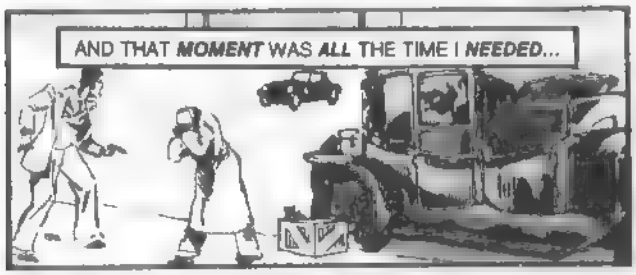
MAX CAME FOR ME THEN! SLOWLY...OMINOUSLY...AS THOUGH HE KNEW I COULD NEVER ESCAPE HIM! I DIDN'T LIKE IT...BUT I COULD SEE IT WAS EITHER HIM OR ME! I EMPTIED MY CLIP INTO HIS HEART...
KPOW KPOW POW! DOW CHOW
AND STILL HE KEPT ON COMING!

EVEN THAT IGNORANT DUTCH KNEW IT TAKES SILVER TO STOP US, REUB! HE HAD A SILVER CANE...AND I SHOVED IT DOWN HIS THROAT!

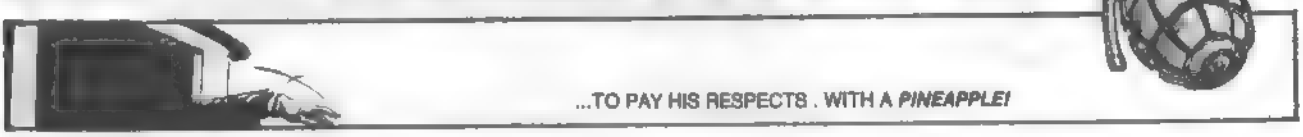
BUT YOU AND I...WE RE FRIENDS, REUB! LET'S HAVE A DRINK! I DRINK YOU POUR!

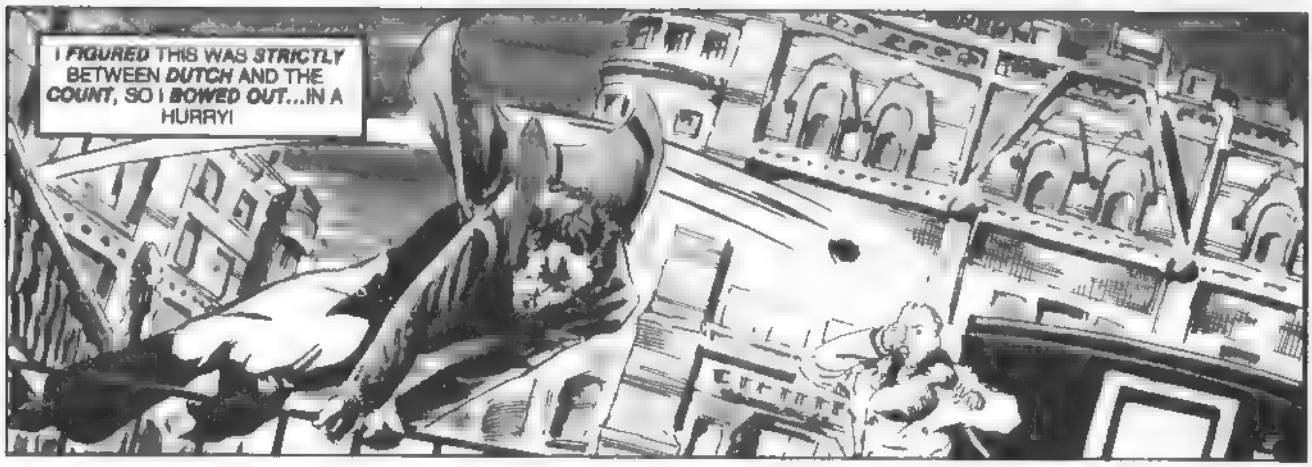
CRUNCH

THE BULLETS HADN'T WORKED! I DIDN T EXPECT MY EMPTY GUN WOULD, EITHER! BUT FOR A MOMENT, ANYWAY, MAX WAS STUNNED...!

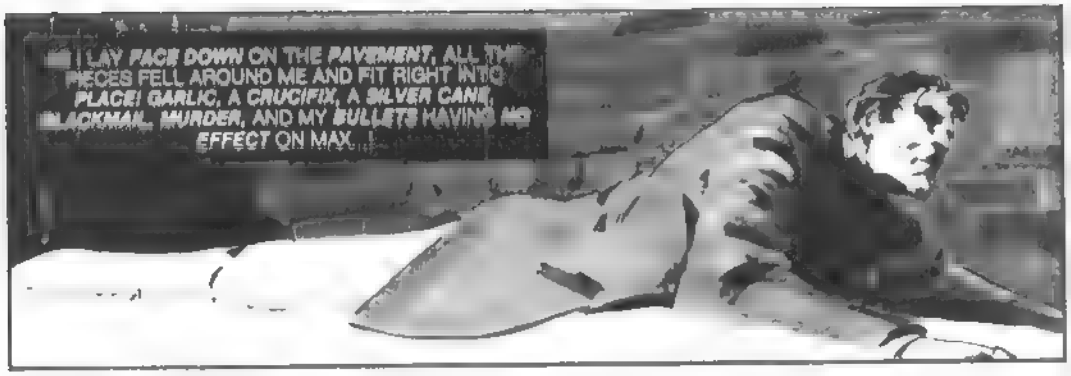

AND THAT MOMENT WAS ALL THE TIME I NEEDED...

ALL THE TIME DUTCH'S REVENGE-BENT GUNNY NEED


...TO PAY HIS RESPECTS . WITH A PINEAPPLE!


I FIGURED THIS WAS STRICTLY BETWEEN DUTCH AND THE COUNT, SO I BOWED OUT...IN A HURRY!

WHOOOOOOM!

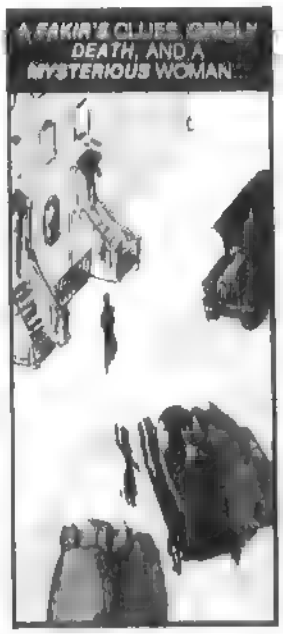

I LAY FACE DOWN ON THE PAVEMENT, ALL THE PIECES FELL AROUND ME AND FIT RIGHT INTO PLACE! GARLIC, A CRUCIFIX, A SILVER CANE, BLACKMAIL, MURDER, AND MY BULLETS HAVING NO EFFECT ON MAX...!

IT ALL ADDED UP TO ONE MILD-MANNERED, PALE, BESPECTACLED...

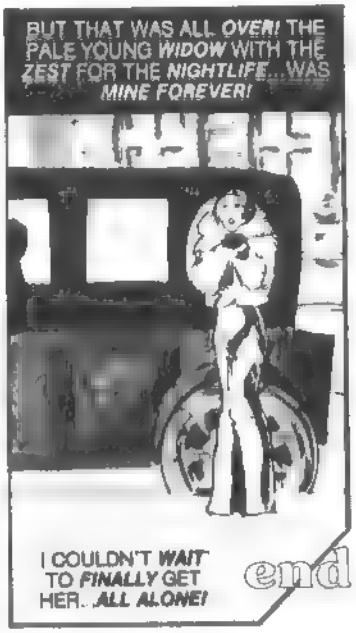
...YOGI!

IF WHAT I'D HEARD ABOUT THE FAMOUS INDIAN FAKIRS WAS TRUE...THEY COULD WALK ON FIRE, SLEEP ON NAILS...AND MAYBE EVEN TAKE A FEW SLUGS TO BOOT! BUT THIS ONE COULDN'T WITHSTAND A GRENADE BLAST...! MAX HAD BEEN OBLITERATED, ALMOST AS IF HE'D VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE! THE BROKEN WINE BOTTLES POURED OUT ONTO THE SNOW, AS IF WEEPING BLOODY TEARS OVER THE CRIMSON BLOTCH THAT WAS ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE COUNT!

AMUSED! SUCH A BIZARRE CASE, AND SO DEFTLY SOLVED!

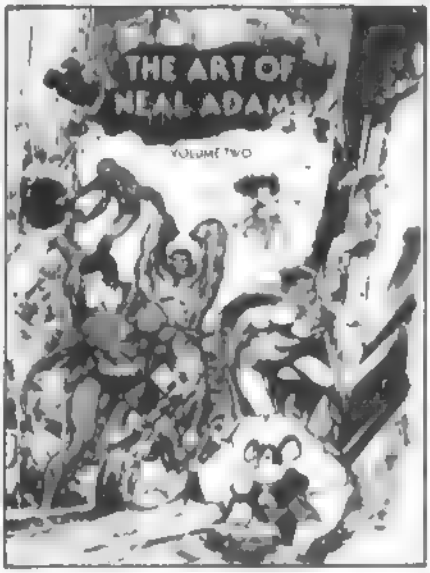

A FAKIR'S CLUES, GRISLY DEATH, AND A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN!...

...WHO WOULD, NO DOUBT, BE HAPPY TO BE FREE OF MAX!
WHEN I'D TAKEN OFF HER SCARF, I'D SEEN BRUTAL MARKS, ALMOST LIKE BITE MARKS, ON TISHA'S THROAT! MAX MUST HAVE TREATED HER SHAMEFULLY!


BUT THAT WAS ALL OVER! THE PALE YOUNG WIDOW WITH THE ZEST FOR THE NIGHTLIFE...WAS MINE FOREVER!
I COULDN'T WAIT TO FINALLY GET HER...ALL ALONE!
end

COMIC ART BOOKS!

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE THE STYLISH AND HIGHLY IMAGINATIVE COMIC ILLUSTRATIONS OF NEAL ADAMS, JOHN BUSCEMA, AND JOHN BYRNE HAS CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF MILLIONS TIME AND TIME AGAIN! NOW WE CAN ALL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORK OF THESE ARTISTS!



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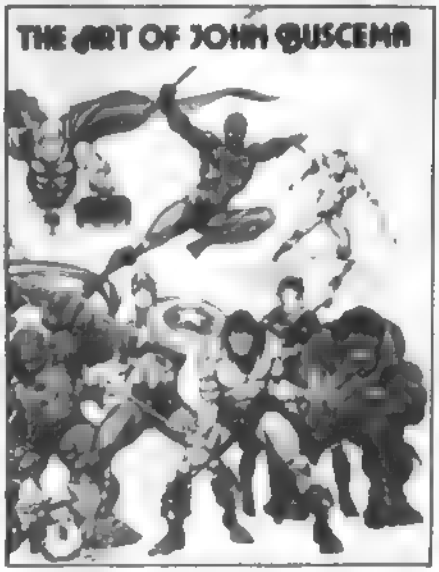

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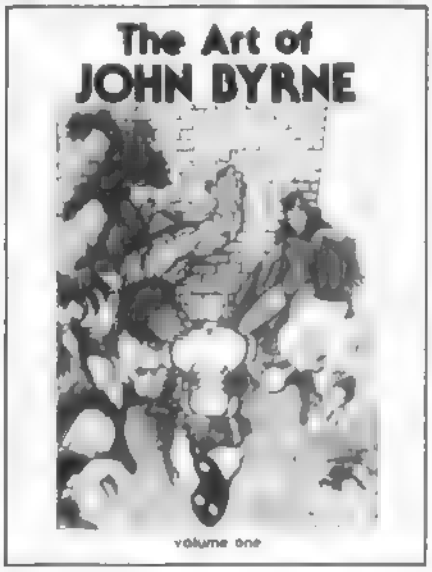

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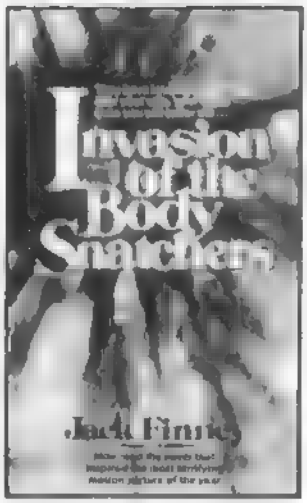

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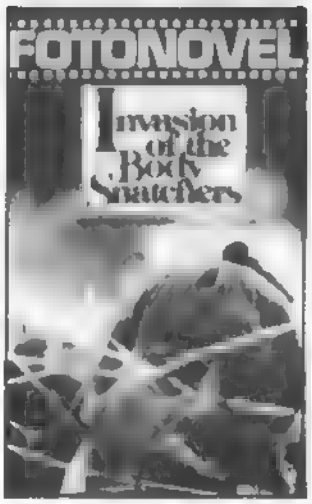

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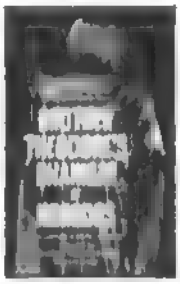

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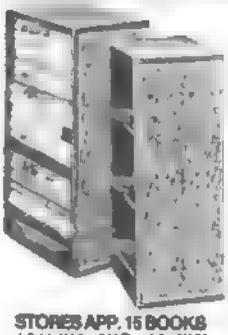

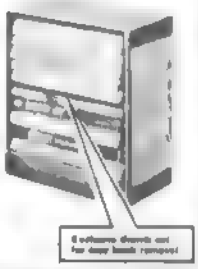

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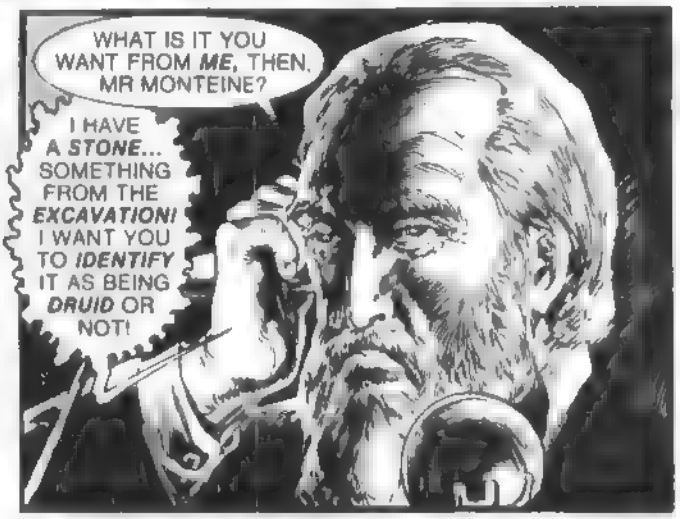
Author: BUDD LEWIS/Illustrator: E.R. CRUZ

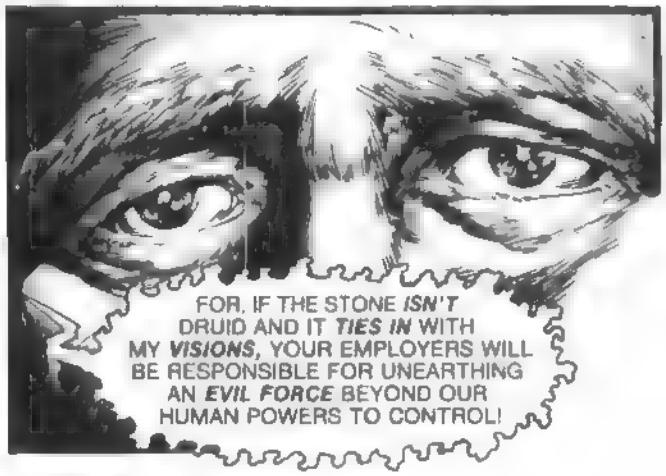
LANDING IN NEED OF EMPLOYMENT, I WAS HIRED AS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT BY A PRIVATE FINANCIER!
GOOD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD, PROFESSOR MERILYN! YOU'LL BE TRAVELING TO THE CONNECTICUT DIG WITHIN THE WEEK!
PERHAPS YOUR EXPERTISE IN DRUID CULTURES WILL SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE FRIGHTENING OCCURENCES THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING THERE!
I AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL, PROFESSOR!

THREE DAYS LATER, THERE HAD BEEN A TINY BIT PUBLISHED IN THE PAPER ABOUT A PROFESSOR A. MERILYN BEING HIRED TO ADVISE ON THE HOUSATONIC CULTURAL DIG! THAT NEWS RELEASE BROUGHT ME IN CONTACT WITH TERROR!
RNNNNG!

PROFESSOR, MY NAME IS JULES MONTEINE! I AM A MEDIUM! I'M IN THE CITY NOW, BUT I LIVE NEAR THE HOUSATONIC SITE! I THINK YOU MAY BE JUST THE MAN TO HELP ME!
HELP, MR MONTEINE?

I AM A PSYCHIC, SIR! AND I'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING ABOUT THE DIGGING SITE THE SCIENTISTS CAN'T COMPREHEND!
I'VE BEEN THERE, MR MERILYN! I'VE HAD VISIONS! IT'S A TOMB OF HORROR! THE VERY EARTH IS DEMON-RIDDEN!
VISIONS AREN'T PROOF!
NO, BUT I'M GOING TO PROVE IT! I INTEND TO HALT THE EXCAVATION BY BRINGING IN AN EXPERT TO PROVE MY VISIONS ARE REAL!


WHAT IS IT YOU WANT FROM ME, THEN, MR MONTEINE?
I HAVE A STONE... SOMETHING FROM THE EXCAVATION! I WANT YOU TO IDENTIFY IT AS BEING DRUID OR NOT!


FOR, IF THE STONE ISN'T DRUID AND IT TIES IN WITH MY VISIONS, YOUR EMPLOYERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR UNEARTHING AN EVIL FORCE BEYOND OUR HUMAN POWERS TO CONTROL!

THE DESPERATE VOICE OF THE PROFESSED MEDIUM NAMED MONTEINE HAD SEARED INTO MY SOUL! IF HE WAS A CRACKPOT, I WOULD SOON KNOW IT! IF HE WAS NOT... MORE THAN A GREAT DEAL STOOD IN THE BALANCE!

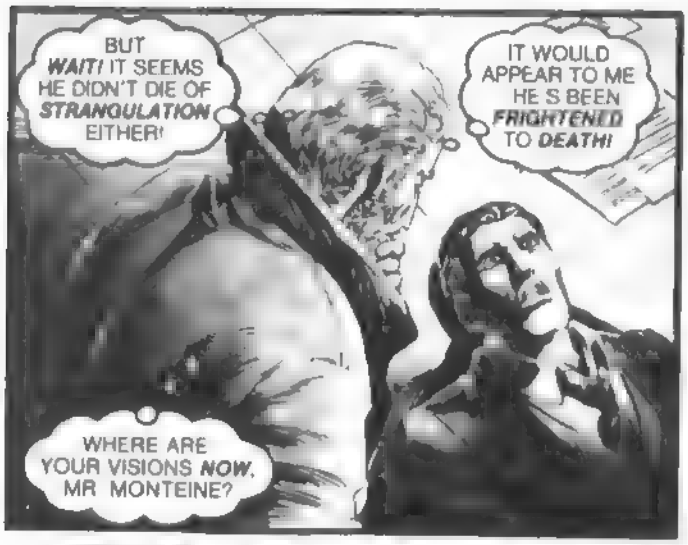
I FOUND HIS FLAT AND SOON MADE MY WAY UP TO HIS DOOR, UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT TO KNOCK!
HERE'S HIS BLOODY NUMBER! GAD, WHAT AM I GETTING MYSELF INTO THIS TIME?

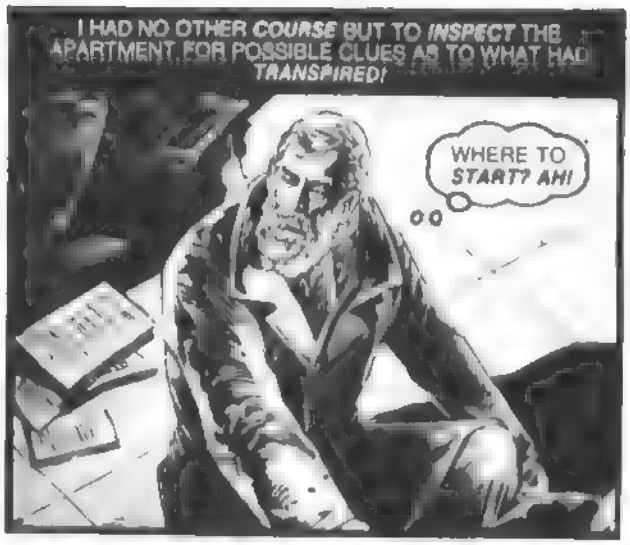
THE DOOR SWUNG ITSELF OPEN AS I LIGHTLY KNOCKED. STILL NO ONE ANSWERED! I DARED TO ENTER!
MMMM.. THE DOOR IS AJAR!
I SAY, MR. MONTEINE? IT'S PROFESSOR MERILYN! HULLO?!

MY CONTACT, MR. MONTEINE, WAS QUITE DEAD BY THE TIME I ARRIVED. HIS FLAT RANSACKED AS THOUGH SEARCHED... BUT THERE WAS NOT A MARK ON HIS BODY! AND THEN I NOTICED SOMETHING ELSE
BY JOVE! WHAT'S THIS, THEN? HIS THROAT... THERE'S A BULGE IN HIS WINDPIPE! COULD HE HAVE SWALLOWED SOMETHING?

BEASTLY BIT OF BUSINESS BUT I HAVE TO REMOVE WHATEVER'S LODGED IN HIS THROAT!

I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ARTIFACT LIKE IT! A GREENISH STONE BAFFLING IN ITS ANTIQUITY AND MARKINGS!
IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, MR MONTEINE...NO, IT IS NOT DRUID BY SOME HALF A MILLION YEARS!
WHOEVER HAD RANSACKED MONTEINE'S FLAT WAS OBVIOUSLY SEARCHING FOR THIS ARTIFACT! APPARENTLY, HE DIED BY SWALLOWING IT RATHER THAN LETTING THE THIEF TAKE IT!

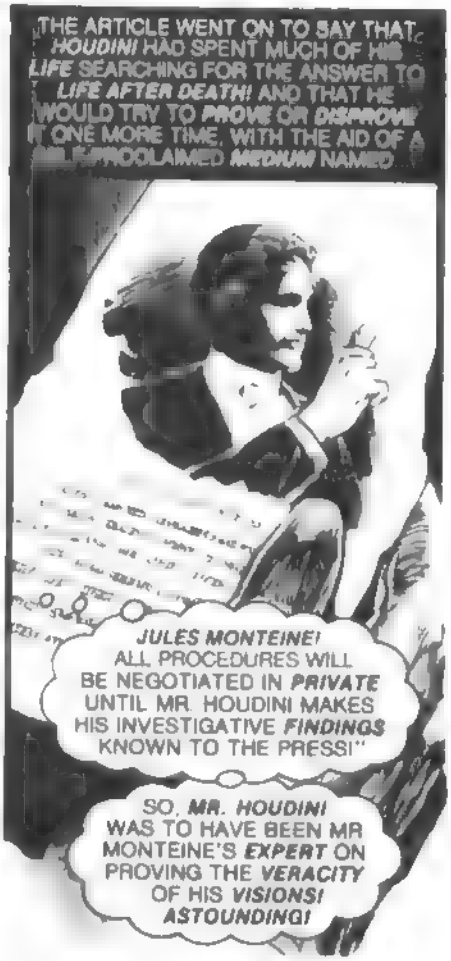

BUT WAIT! IT SEEMS HE DIDN'T DIE OF STRANGULATION EITHER!
IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME HE'S BEEN FRIGHTENED TO DEATH!
WHERE ARE YOUR VISIONS NOW, MR. MONTEINE?


I HAD NO OTHER COURSE BUT TO INSPECT THE APARTMENT FOR POSSIBLE CLUES AS TO WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED!
WHERE TO START? AH!

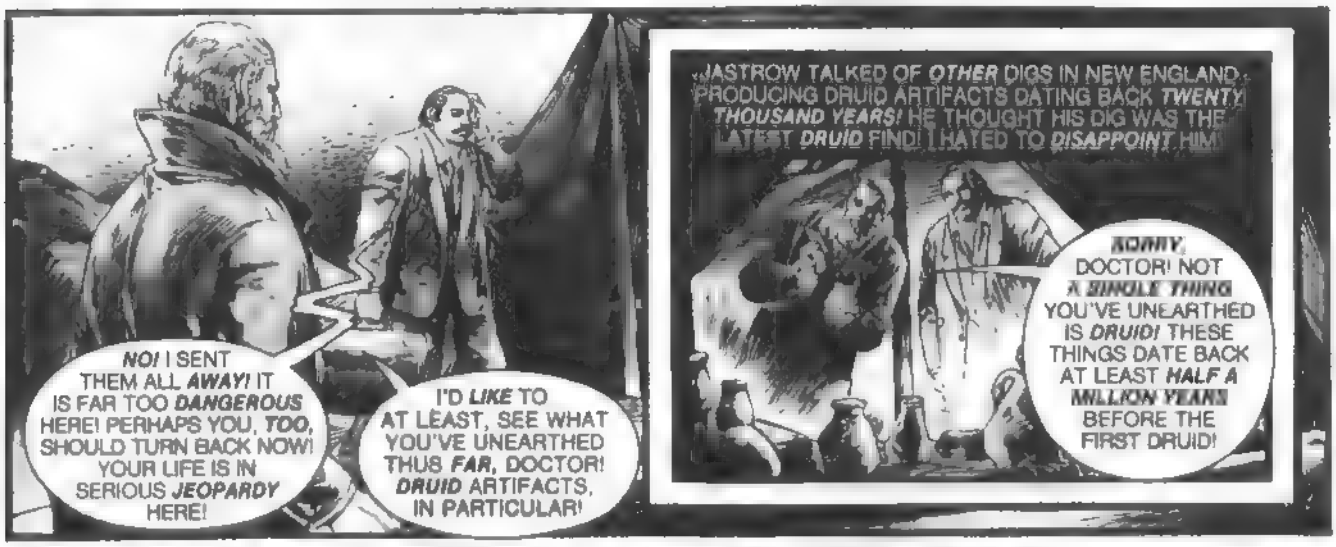
ODD BOOKS! GAD! SOME OF THESE ARE OLDER THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN! LANGUAGES I'VE NEVER KNOWN! BUT ONE IN PARTICULAR NOT DUSTY LIKE THE OTHERS . CATCHES MY EYE!
BY GOD! THIS ONE IS BOUND IN MUMMIFIED SKIN! GREEN SKIN!

THE BOOK BORE AN UNPRONOUNCEABLE TITLE AND AN UNDECIPHERABLE TEXT, BUT THE DRAWINGS REACHED ACROSS THE MILLENIA WITH STARTLING LUCIDITY!

THEN MY EYES FELL ON A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING MONTEINE HAD PLACED BETWEEN THE PAGES OF THE HIDEOUS BOOK! ANOTHER LINK IN THE BIZARRE CHAIN!
A RECENT CLIPPING FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES! DATED OCTOBER 1, 1926!
"THE GREAT HOUDINI ACCEPTS PSYCHIC'S CHALLENGE! WORLD-FAMOUS MAGICIAN, HARRY HOUDINI, CLAIMS HE WILL MAKE ONE FINAL ATTEMPT AT DISCOVERING THE EXISTENCE OF THE AFTERLIFE!"


THE ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HOUDINI HAD SPENT MUCH OF HIS LIFE SEARCHING FOR THE ANSWER TO LIFE AFTER DEATH! AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO PROVE OR DISPROVE IT ONE MORE TIME, WITH THE AID OF A PROCLAIMED MEDIUM! NAMED...
JULES MONTEINE! ALL PROCEDURES WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN PRIVATE UNTIL MR. HOUDINI MAKES HIS INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS KNOWN TO THE PRESS!"
SO, MR. HOUDINI WAS TO HAVE BEEN MR. MONTEINE'S EXPERT ON PROVING THE VERACITY OF HIS VISIONS! ASTOUNDING!

A TEDIOUS RIDE BY RAIL, THEN A JOLTING AUTO TRIP INTO THE CONNECTICUT BACKWOODS...AND AT LAST I ARRIVED AT THE HOUSATONIC SITE! SURPRISINGLY, I WAS MET BY ONE MAN. WHEN I EXPECTED TO FIND AN ENTIRE CREW! DR. W.H. JASTROW...HEAD OF THE EXCAVATION!
PROFESSOR MERILYN? EXCELLENT! I'D BEEN INFORMED AN EXPERT ON DRUID CULTURES WAS ON THE WAY HERE! WELCOME, SIR! MY NAME IS JASTROW!
I...I WASN'T EXPECTING TO FIND YOUR EXCAVATION CLOSED, DR. JASTROW! ARE THERE NO OTHERS WORKING AT THIS SITE?


NO! I SENT THEM ALL AWAY! IT IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS HERE! PERHAPS YOU, TOO, SHOULD TURN BACK NOW! YOUR LIFE IS IN SERIOUS JEOPARDY HERE!
I'D LIKE TO AT LEAST, SEE WHAT YOU'VE UNEARTHED THUS FAR, DOCTOR! DRUID ARTIFACTS, IN PARTICULAR!
JASTROW TALKED OF OTHER DIGS IN NEW ENGLAND PRODUCING DRUID ARTIFACTS DATING BACK TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS! HE THOUGHT HIS DIG WAS THE LATEST DRUID FIND! I HATED TO DISAPPOINT HIM!
SORRY, DOCTOR! NOT A SINGLE THING YOU'VE UNEARTHED IS DRUID! THESE THINGS DATE BACK AT LEAST HALF A MILLION YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST DRUID!

I EXPECTED TO BE FIRED ON THE SPOT FOR DASHING THE MAN'S HOPES OF A DRUID FIND. BUT INSTEAD HE LAUGHED A SIGH OF RELIEF!
THANK GOD! I'D BEGUN TO BELIEVE I'D GONE INSANE! PERHAPS NOW I CAN GET TO THE CORE OF THIS THIS MADNESS!

I KNEW THIS WAS NO DRUID FIND, BUT I NEEDED AN EXPERT TO CONFIRM IT!
COME, PROFESSOR! NOW YOU MUST SEE WHY I'VE ORDERED THIS SITE CLOSED DOWN!
BEYOND THIS ENTRANCE LIES THE MAIN EXCAVATION! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO INSIDE! MY OWN ADVICE TO YOU IS TO REFUSE NOW, AND GO BACK TO THE CITY...!
UNLESS, THAT IS, YOU HAVE A GRIP ON SANITY THE VERY ENTRANCE TO HELL COULDN'T RELEASE!
HELL'S ENTRANCE ISN'T TO BE FEARED, DOCTOR! ONLY ITS VERY DEPTHS! SHALL WE PROCEED?

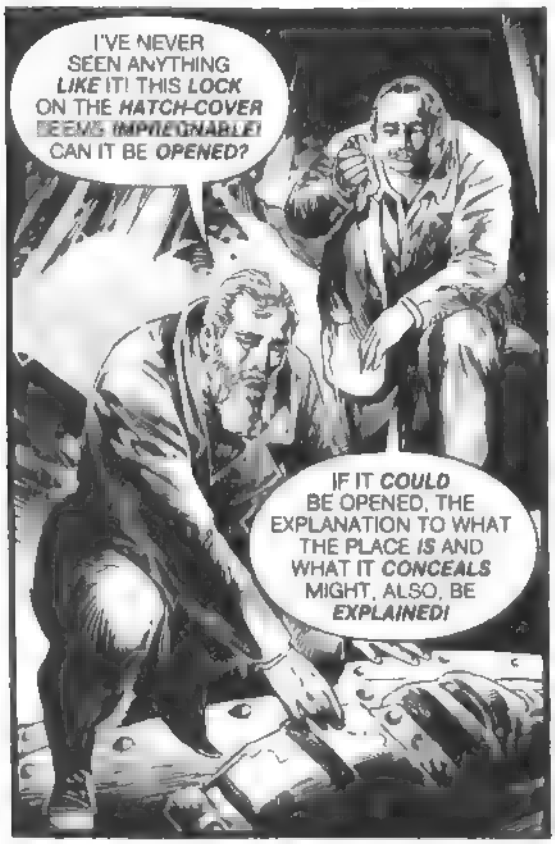
MY WORDS WERE *BRAVE*, BUT I PRAYED JASTROW DID NOT DETECT MY GASP OF *FEAR* AS WE ENTERED THE VAST *EXCAVATED CHAMBER!* IF THERE EVER WAS AN *ANTEROOM* TO *HADES*, SURELY NOW WE WERE STANDING *INSIDE* IT!

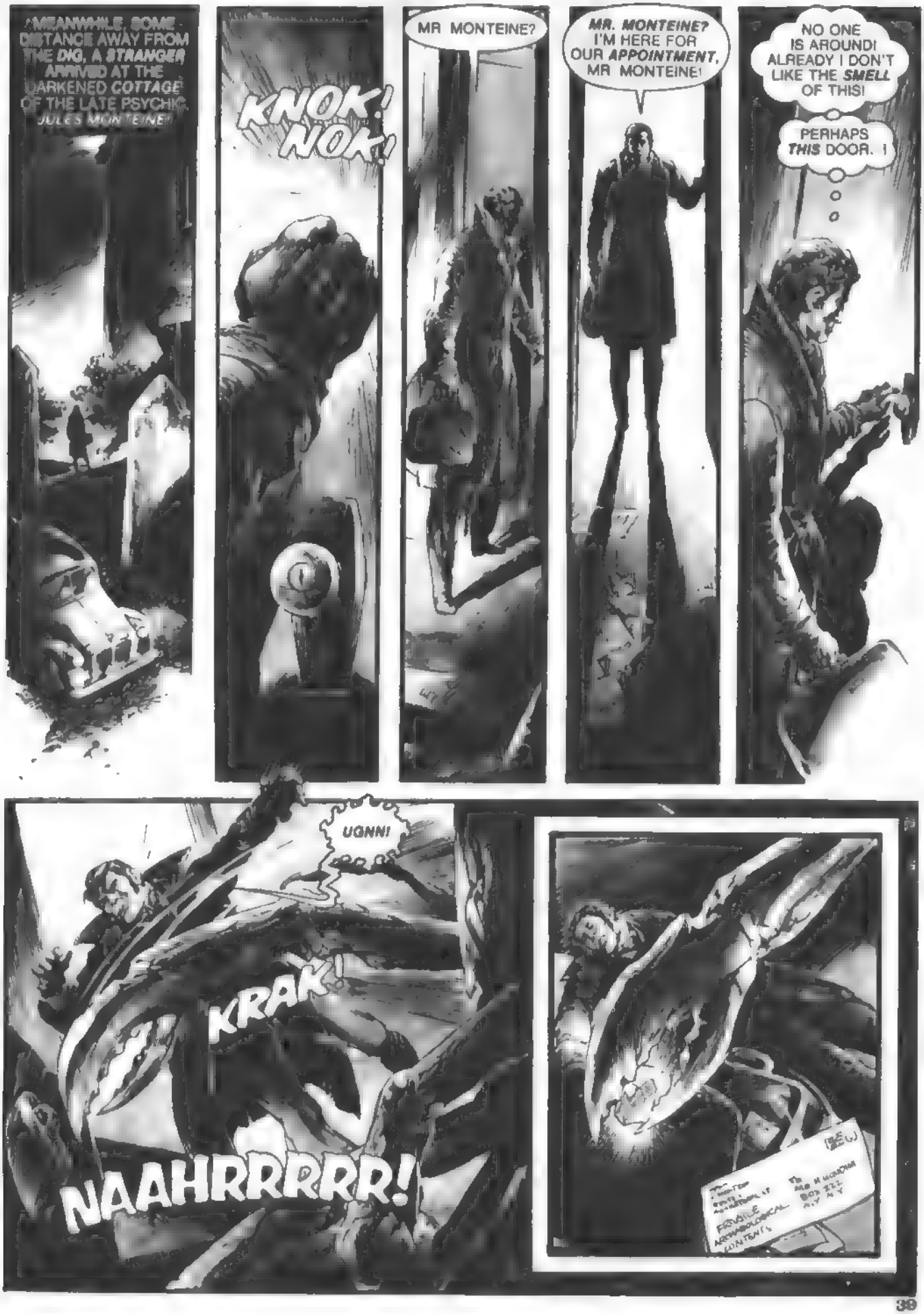
IT WAS *NOT* DRUID, BUT FASHIONED BY SOME *STRANGE RACE* OF BEINGS FAR *OLDER* THAN THE HISTORY OF *MANKIND!* IF THE MEDIUM, *MONTEINE*, HAD STOOD HERE, I TRULY DOUBT NOT HE HAD VISIONS MORE *OMINOUS!*

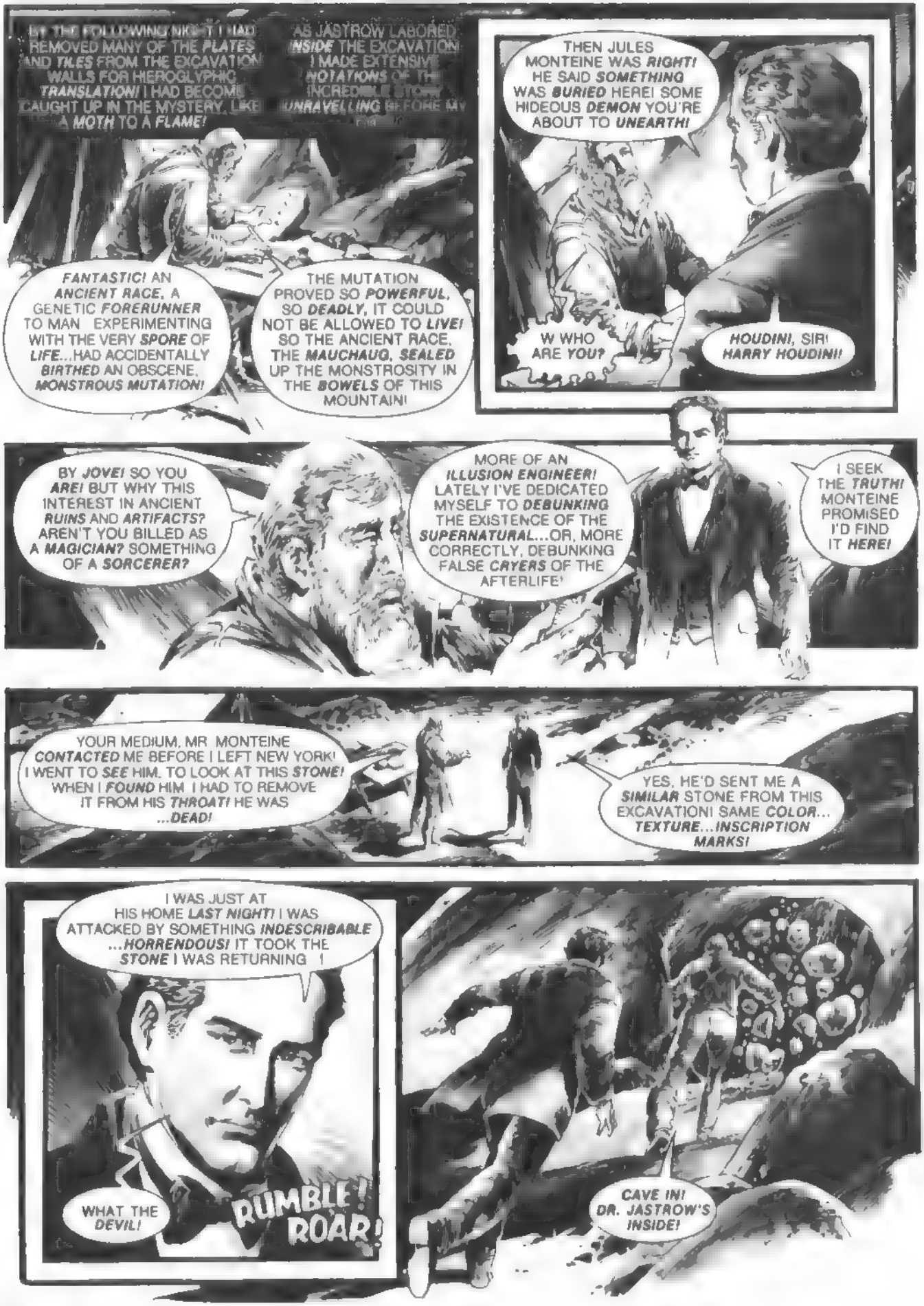
ALTHOUGH THE GREAT ANTECHAMBER ITSELF WAS MORE *THREATENING* THAN ANY PLACE I HAVE EVER *SEEN*, THE MOST CHILLING THING IN IT WAS WHAT APPEARED TO BE A *STONE WELL* PROTRUDING FROM THE EARTHEN *FLOOR!* WHERE THAT WELL *LED* PRESENTED POSSIBILITIES TO *SHRIVEL* THE *SOUL* OF ANYMAN, INCLUDING *MERLIN HIMSELF!*

YOU NOTICE THAT STONE *APERTURE* IN THE CENTER OF THE *CHAMBER?*

I'VE NOTICED NOTHING *ELSE!*




MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE DIG, A STRANGER ARRIVED AT THE DARKENED COTTAGE OF THE LATE PSYCHIC, JULES MONTEINE!
KNOK! NOK!
MR MONTEINE?
MR. MONTEINE? I'M HERE FOR OUR APPOINTMENT, MR MONTEINE!
NO ONE IS AROUND! ALREADY I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF THIS!
PERHAPS THIS DOOR. !
UGNNI
KRAK
NAAHRRRRR!
FRAGILE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTENTS


BY THE FOLLOWING NIGHT I HAD REMOVED MANY OF THE PLATES AND TILES FROM THE EXCAVATION WALLS FOR HIEROGLYPHIC TRANSLATION! I HAD BECOME CAUGHT UP IN THE MYSTERY, LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME!
AS JASTROW LABORED INSIDE THE EXCAVATION I MADE EXTENSIVE NOTATIONS OF THE INCREDIBLE STORY UNRAVELLING BEFORE MY EYES
FANTASTIC! AN ANCIENT RACE, A GENETIC FORERUNNER TO MAN EXPERIMENTING WITH THE VERY SPORE OF LIFE...HAD ACCIDENTALLY BIRTHED AN OBSCENE, MONSTROUS MUTATION!
THE MUTATION PROVED SO POWERFUL, SO DEADLY, IT COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE! SO THE ANCIENT RACE, THE MAUCHAUG, SEALED UP THE MONSTROSITY IN THE BOWELS OF THIS MOUNTAIN!
THEN JULES MONTEINE WAS RIGHT! HE SAID SOMETHING WAS BURIED HERE! SOME HIDEOUS DEMON YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNEARTH!
W WHO ARE YOU?
HOUDINI, SIR! HARRY HOUDINI!
BY JOVE! SO YOU ARE! BUT WHY THIS INTEREST IN ANCIENT RUINS AND ARTIFACTS? AREN'T YOU BILLED AS A MAGICIAN? SOMETHING OF A SORCERER?
MORE OF AN ILLUSION ENGINEER! LATELY I'VE DEDICATED MYSELF TO DEBUNKING THE EXISTENCE OF THE SUPERNATURAL...OR, MORE CORRECTLY, DEBUNKING FALSE CRYERS OF THE AFTERLIFE!
I SEEK THE TRUTH! MONTEINE PROMISED I'D FIND IT HERE!
YOUR MEDIUM, MR MONTEINE CONTACTED ME BEFORE I LEFT NEW YORK! I WENT TO SEE HIM, TO LOOK AT THIS STONE! WHEN I FOUND HIM I HAD TO REMOVE IT FROM HIS THROAT! HE WAS ...DEAD!
YES, HE'D SENT ME A SIMILAR STONE FROM THIS EXCAVATION! SAME COLOR... TEXTURE...INSCRIPTION MARKS!
I WAS JUST AT HIS HOME LAST NIGHT! I WAS ATTACKED BY SOMETHING INDESCRIBABLE ...HORRENDOUS! IT TOOK THE STONE I WAS RETURNING !
WHAT THE DEVIL!
RUMBLE! ROAR!
CAVE IN! DR. JASTROW'S INSIDE!

THE SITUATION WAS *HOPELESS!* HUMAN *STRENGTH*, GOOD *HEART AND DESPERATION* WOULD NEVER *UN-SEAL* THE CALAMITOUS ROCK SLIDE! I HAD *NO CHOICE* BUT TO *REVEAL* MYSELF!

IT'S *NO GOOD!* WE'LL NEED *FIFTY MEN* AND A *WEEK* TO OPEN THIS ENTRANCE!

THEN *STAND CLEAR*, MISTER HOUDINI!

HEAR ME, THOU ELEMENTS OF THE EARTH! AT THE COMMAND OF *MERLIN THE MAGICIAN* WRITHE TO *LIFE* AND *OBEY* MY WILL!

GOOD LORD! *MAGIC!* A *GENUINE INCANTATION!*

THERE WAS NO TIME TO *EXPLAIN* ANYTHING BUT IN HIS DEEPEST HEART, HOUDINI MUST HAVE *ALREADY* UNDERSTOOD! PERHAPS HE WAS THE ONLY MAN *ALIVE* WHO COULD!

THE CHAMBER'S *EMPTY!* JASTROW'S *GONE! QUICKLY*, HARRY...FOLLOW ME TO THE *WELL!*

LOOK! A *HAND* CAUGHT IN THIS *HATCHWAY!*

UNTIL A *FEW MINUTES* AGO, THIS HATCH WAS BEYOND OUR POWER TO *OPEN!* SOMETHING *INSIDE* HAS *OPENED* IT, AND, THANKS TO POOR *DR. JASTROW*, HAS NOT *CLOSED* IT AGAIN!

WE *KNOW* WE MUST DESCEND INTO THE *ABYSS!* FOR WHATEVER LIES BELOW *JASTROW, MONTEINE*, AND THE *THIRTY WORKERS* WAS SURELY STILL *DOWN* THERE!

JASTROW PUT UP A *SAVAGE FIGHT!* THERE'RE BITS OF *GREEN FLESH* UNDER HIS NAILS. THE SAME GREEN FLESH THAT *BOUND* THE *BOOK* I FOUND IN MONTEINE'S *FLAT!*

AND *THIS!* OBVIOUSLY *DROPPED BY* WHATEVER PULLED JASTROW *DOWN!* THE SAME STONE *ARTIFACT* MONTEINE SENT ME. THE ONE *TAKEN* FROM ME *LAST NIGHT!*

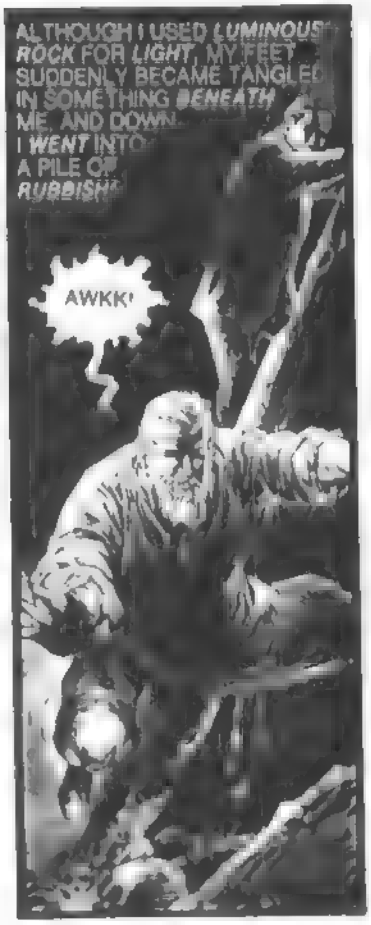
THEN WE'LL *SOLVE* THIS RIDDLE BY *FOLLOWING* HIM INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE *WELL!*

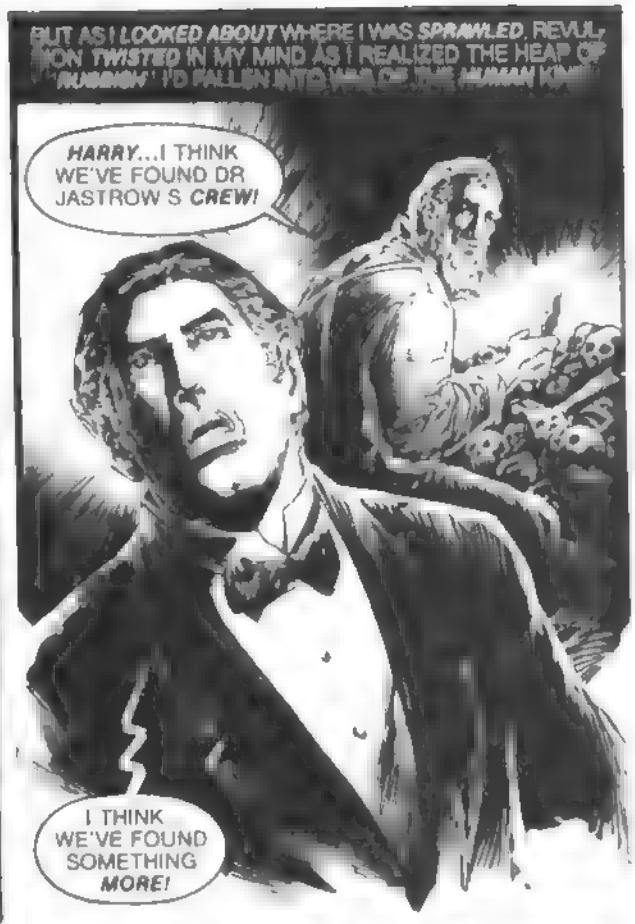
WHIRR! KLATCH!

THERE GOES THE *HATCH COVER!* IT *LOCKED* ITSELF AUTOMATICALLY! WE MAY BE DOWN HERE FOR *GOOD!*

MY DEAR *MERLIN*...IF I *MAY* CALL YOU THAT. THE GREAT *HOUDINI* ISN'T *ANYWHERE* FOR *GOOD*. EXCEPT PERHAPS IN *DEATH*...AND I'M *WORKING* ON THAT!

THE TUNNEL WAS MORE ANCIENT THAN ANYTHING I'D EVER SEEN, AND WOUND STEADILY DOWNWARD FOR HUNDREDS OF YARDS! WE WALKED WARILY, READY TO SPRING IN ANY DIRECTION BUT EVER FILLED WITH A GROWING SENSE OF WONDER AND AWE!

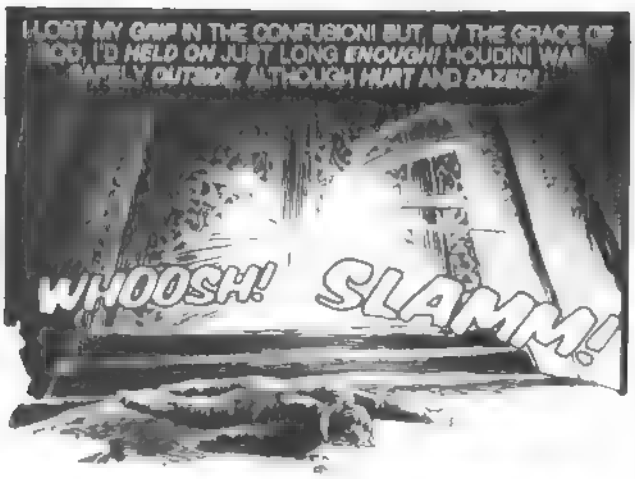

ALTHOUGH I USED LUMINOUS ROCK FOR LIGHT, MY FEET SUDDENLY BECAME TANGLED IN SOMETHING BENEATH ME, AND DOWN I WENT INTO A PILE OF RUBBISH!
AWKK!

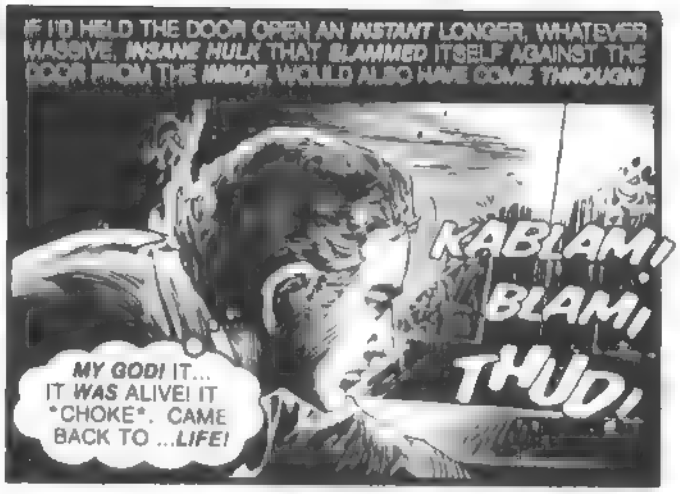

BUT AS I LOOKED ABOUT WHERE I WAS SPRAWLED, REVULSION TWISTED IN MY MIND AS I REALIZED THE HEAP OF RUBBISH I'D FALLEN INTO WAS OF THE HUMAN KIND!
HARRY...I THINK WE'VE FOUND DR JASTROW'S CREW!
I THINK WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING MORE!

THE VAST, RISING DOOR SEALED AWAY AN INNER TOMB! THIS WAS THE VERY CORE OF THE LABYRINTHS SURROUNDING IT, AS WELL AS THE HEART OF THE MYSTERY! IT STANK OF LIVING EVIL!
MERLIN OPEN IT! I'VE GOT TO GO INSIDE! I'VE GOT TO KNOW!
IT'S SEALED BY A LOCKING SYSTEM, AND ALSO BY SORCERY! I CAN'T OPEN BOTH AT THE SAME TIME!
THEN, WE MUST WORK ON THIS TOGETHER! RELEASE THE HOLDING SPELL AND I'LL OPEN THE LOCK!

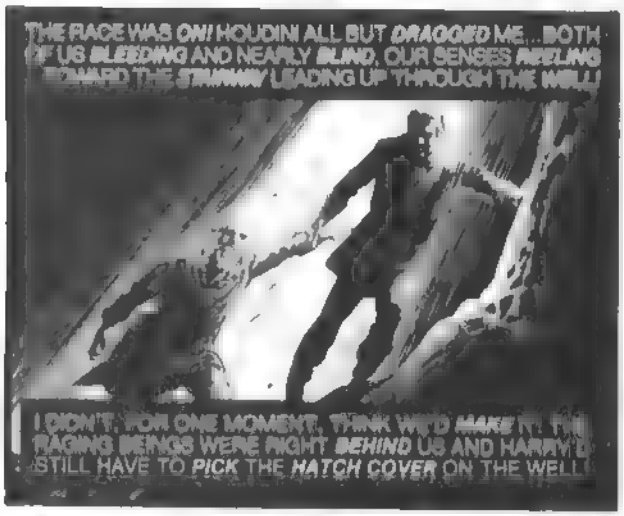
SHAME! I COUNTER-SORCERED THE MAGICKS AND HOUDINI DEFIED THE MECHANISMS OF THE MASSIVE DOOR!
C-CAN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER...!
GOD! IT'S INCREDIBLE! HOW I WISH I HAD TIME TO STUDY IT! WHOEVER MADE THESE LOCKS WAS MOTIVATED BY MORE THAN A FEAR OF KEEPING SOMEONE OUT OF HERE!
THAT'S IT, MERLIN! I'M GOING IN!

THE ANCIENT SEALING SPELL WAS ENORMOUSLY POWERFUL AND I STRUGGLED PAINFULLY AS MY YOUNG COLLEAGUE VANISHED INTO THE TOMB...ALLOWING HIM TO EXPLORE NOT ONLY THE MYSTERY AT HAND...BUT THE PASSIONATE MYSTERY OF HIS SOUL!
WHAT HAPPENED THEN, ONLY HOUDINI COULD HAVE TOLD!
A COFFIN! THIS IS THE MYSTERY...THE EYE OF THE MADNESS... THE THING THEY SEALED AWAY FOREVER!
I CAN FEEL... A PRESENCE...SOME ESSENCE...DEAD, YET LIVING...IN THIS VERY COFFIN!
DEAD YET ALIVE! AT LAST I M NEAR THE ANSWER THE VERY SECRET OF LIFE AND DEATH!
IT KNOWS I'M HERE! IT WANTS TO LIVE AGAIN TO ESCAPE THIS PRISON OF THE DEAD! I MUST HELP IT!
I RELEASE YOU! I RELEASE YOU FROM THE BONDS OF ETERNAL DEATH!
KITTIKKLIKK!
MY STRENGTH WAS ALL BUT DRAINED OUTSIDE THE TOMB, BUT THEN MY MIND NEARLY SHRIVELED AS I SAW THEM! THREE OF THEM...TENTACLED NIGHTMARES... THE SAME BEINGS FROM MONTEINE'S OBSCENE BOOK! THEY WERE COMING FOR ME!
MY GOD! HARRY! GET OUT! THEY'RE COMING TOWARDS ME! RUNNY!
NYYYAROG
SUDDENLY, THE THREE CREATURES POUNCED ON ME AS A DEMENTED SCREAM RANG OUT IN THE TOMB! THE CONCUSSION OF IT FLUNG HOUDINI BODILY THROUGH THE SHUDDERING DOOR!


I LOST MY GRIP IN THE CONFUSION! BUT, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I'D HELD ON JUST LONG ENOUGH! HOUDINI WAS SAFELY OUTSIDE, ALTHOUGH HURT AND DAZED!
WHOOSH!
SLAMM!


IF I'D HELD THE DOOR OPEN AN INSTANT LONGER, WHATEVER MASSIVE, INSANE HULK THAT SLAMMED ITSELF AGAINST THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE, WOULD ALSO HAVE COME THROUGH!
KABLAM!
BLAM!
THUD!
MY GOD! IT... IT WAS ALIVE! IT *CHOKE*. CAME BACK TO ...LIFE!

MERLIN! GOOD GOD!
GET 'EM OFF ME, HARRY! HELP ME!
I COULD SEE HOUDINI WAS HURT, POSSIBLY BROKEN RIBS FROM THE WAY HE FAVORED HIS SIDE! BUT I NEEDED HIS HELP TOO DESPERATELY, AND TOGETHER WE BEAT THEM BACK!
KRAK!
WHAP!


THE RACE WAS ON! HOUDINI ALL BUT DRAGGED ME...BOTH OF US BLEEDING AND NEARLY BLIND, OUR SENSES REELING TOWARD THE STAIRWAY LEADING UP THROUGH THE WELL!
I DIDN'T, FOR ONE MOMENT, THINK WE'D MAKE IT... THE RAGING BEINGS WERE RIGHT BEHIND US AND HARRY'D STILL HAVE TO PICK THE HATCH COVER ON THE WELL!

COME ON! WE'RE AHEAD OF THEM! YOU'VE GOT TO HOLD THEM BACK WHILE I GET THE LATCH OPEN!
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN! I FEEL SO WEAK, HARRY! I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS!
SORRY NOTHING! WE FOUND WHAT WE CAME TO FIND! AT LEAST ...I DID!

NO SIGN OF THEM, BUT I HEAR THEM COMING! HOW ARE YOU DOING?
MY SIDE IS KILLING ME! *GASP* G-GETTING HAZY...HARD TO FOCUS...LOCK'S INCREDIBLY... COMPLEX!

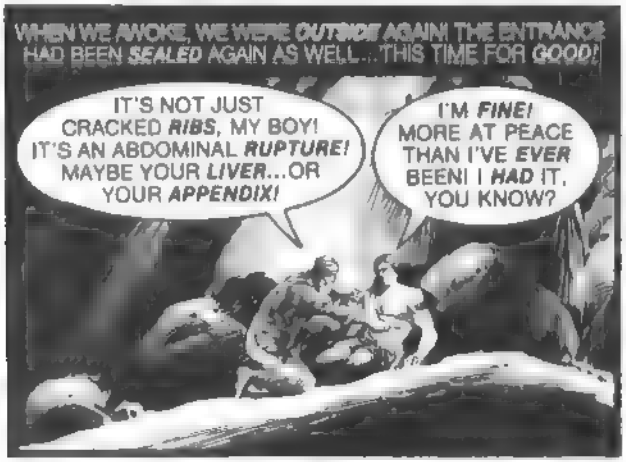
BLAST! THEY'RE HERE! I'M TOO GROGGY TO HOLD THEM OFF! I HAVE TO BLAST THEM AWAY!
NO! DON'T KILL THEM, MERLIN! THEY THEY'RE THE LAST!

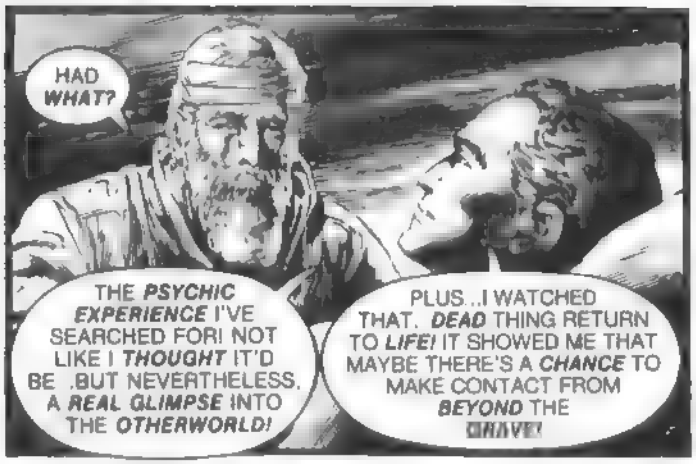
WHA . WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THEY'RE ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN THAT RESURRECTED THING AND ..THE REST OF THE WORLD!

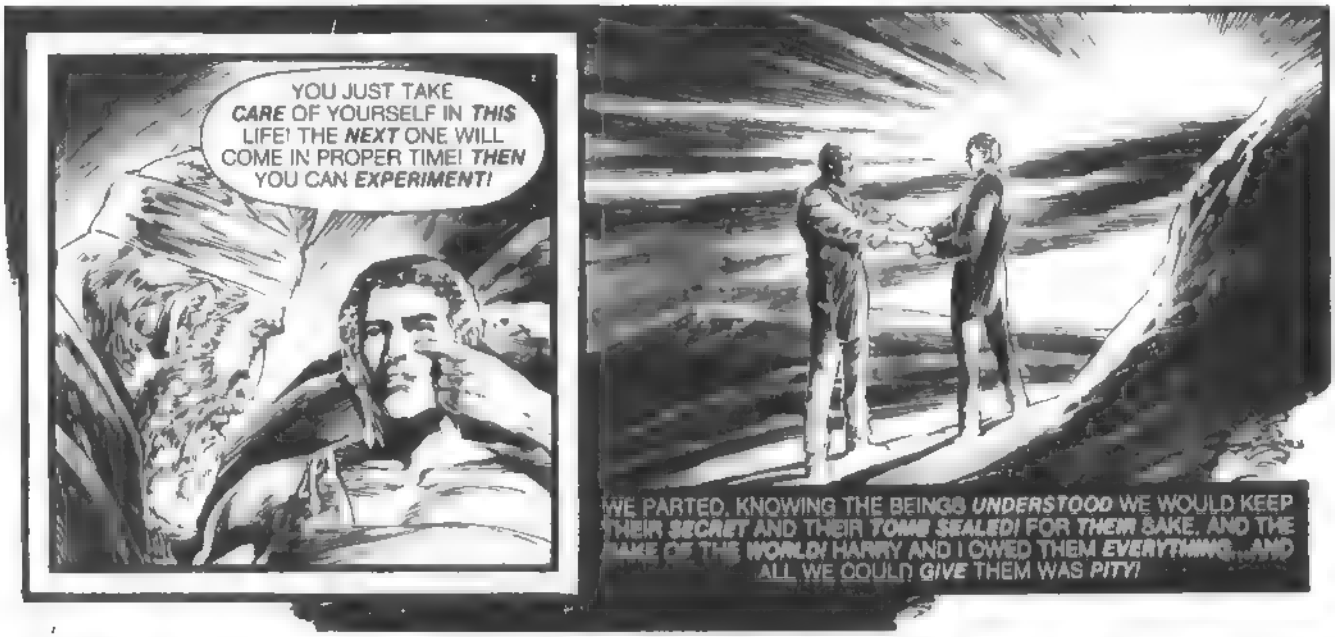
THEY'VE ONLY BEEN TRYING TO DRIVE THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS AWAY FROM HERE! BEFORE ..BEFORE THEY ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED THAT THING!
I KNOW IT'S TRUE! MONTEINE KNEW IT! I SAW HIS V-VISION DOWN THERE!
THE THING SENT OUT MENTAL... SUGGESTIONS TO LURE... SOMEONE DOWN HERE TO FREE IT!

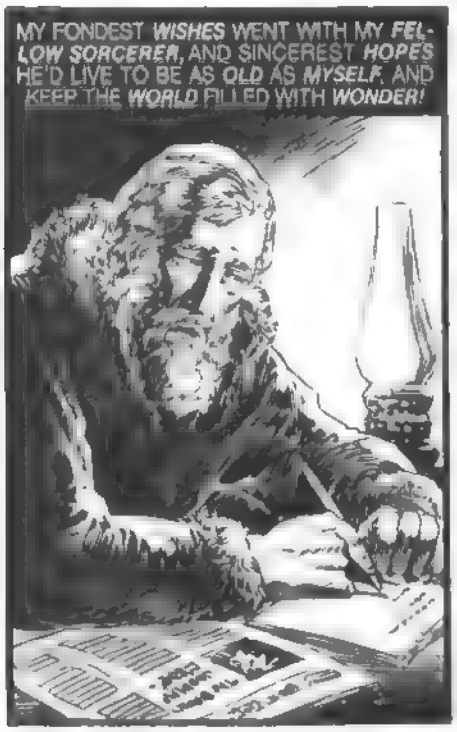
COULD NOT SAY WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...FOR THE DARKNESS WIRLED AROUND ME...
...AND I FELT MYSELF LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS!

I CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT GENTLE LIMBS LIFTED US...AND CAREFULLY SET US OUTSIDE THE TOMB!

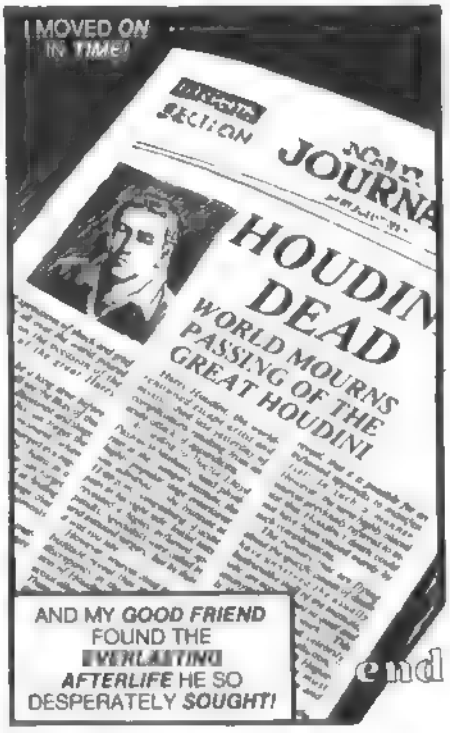

WHEN WE AWOKE, WE WERE OUTSIDE AGAIN! THE ENTRANCE HAD BEEN SEALED AGAIN AS WELL...THIS TIME FOR GOOD!
IT'S NOT JUST CRACKED RIBS, MY BOY! IT'S AN ABDOMINAL RUPTURE! MAYBE YOUR LIVER...OR YOUR APPENDIX!
I'M FINE! MORE AT PEACE THAN I'VE EVER BEEN! I HAD IT, YOU KNOW?


HAD WHAT?
THE PSYCHIC EXPERIENCE I'VE SEARCHED FOR! NOT LIKE I THOUGHT IT'D BE .BUT NEVERTHELESS, A REAL GLIMPSE INTO THE OTHERWORLD!
PLUS...I WATCHED THAT. DEAD THING RETURN TO LIFE! IT SHOWED ME THAT MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE TO MAKE CONTACT FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!

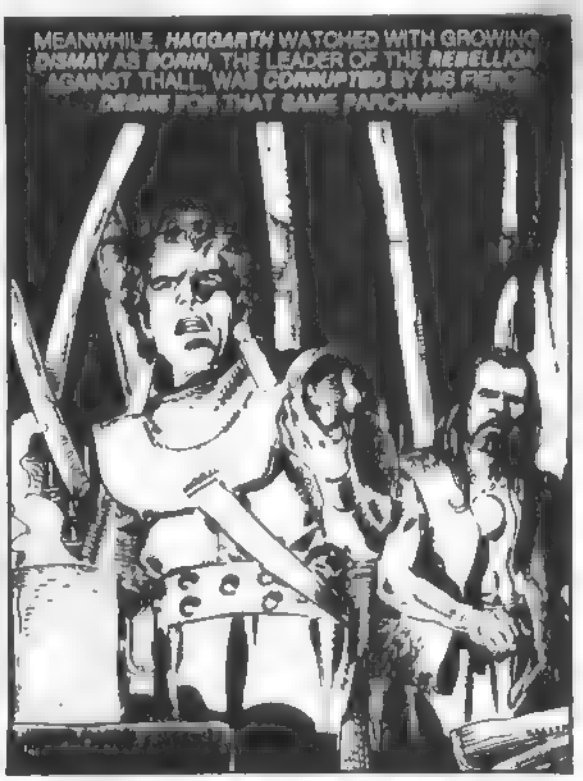

YOU JUST TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF IN THIS LIFE! THE NEXT ONE WILL COME IN PROPER TIME! THEN YOU CAN EXPERIMENT!
WE PARTED, KNOWING THE BEINGS UNDERSTOOD WE WOULD KEEP THEIR SECRET AND THEIR TOMB SEALED! FOR THEM SAKE, AND THE SAKE OF THE WORLD! HARRY AND I OWED THEM EVERYTHING...AND ALL WE COULD GIVE THEM WAS PITY!


MY FONDEST WISHES WENT WITH MY FELLOW SORCERER, AND SINCEREST HOPES HE'D LIVE TO BE AS OLD AS MYSELF, AND KEEP THE WORLD FILLED WITH WONDER!

NEWS CAME TO ME THAT HE DID NOT, HOWEVER!
AND, OF A SUDDEN, THE WORLD BECAME A MUCH TOO EMPTY PLACE AGAIN!


I MOVED ON IN TIME!
SECTION
JOURNA
HOUDIN
DEAD
WORLD MOURNS PASSING OF THE GREAT HOUDINI
AND MY GOOD FRIEND FOUND THE EVERLASTING AFTERLIFE HE SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT!
end

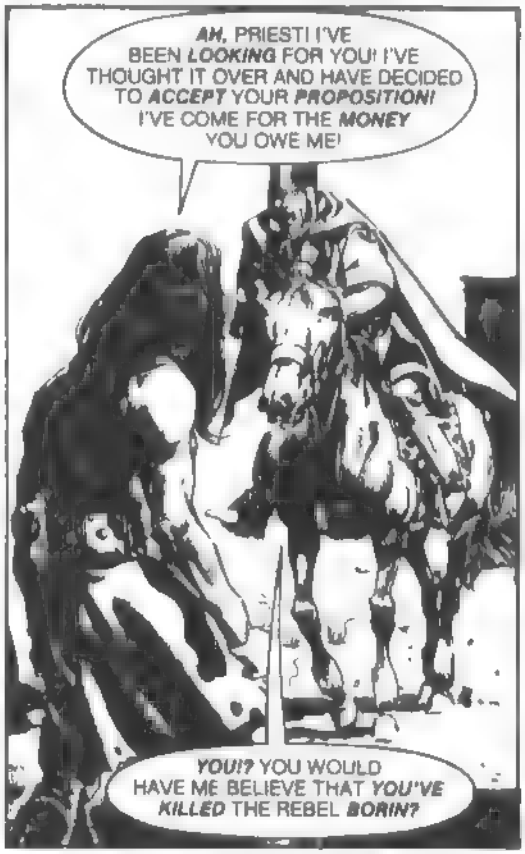
HAGGARTH



Author and Illustrator: VICTOR de la FUENTE

AS THE FLEEING WARRIORS RACED THROUGH THE DARKENED STREETS THE STUMBLED UPON THE HIGH PRIEST FRESHLY EMERGING FROM HIS MEETING WITH KING THALL!
LOOK, BORIN OUR MUTUAL 'FRIEND'... THE PRIEST WHO PRETENDS TO BE YOUR ALLY WHILE HE HIRES ME TO CUT YOU DOWN
THE RABID CUR! LET ME AT HIM, HAGGARTH!

NO, I HAVE A PLAN! STAY HERE TRY NOT TO LET HIM SEE YOU!


AH, PRIEST! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER AND HAVE DECIDED TO ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSITION! I'VE COME FOR THE MONEY YOU OWE ME!
YOU!? YOU WOULD HAVE ME BELIEVE THAT YOU'VE KILLED THE REBEL BORIN?

NO, I'VE NOT TAINTED MY SWORD WITH HIS BLOOD! THAT WAS A JOB FOR THE SOLDIERS YOU SENT! I'VE ONLY PROMISED YOU HIS HEAD!
IF YOU LOOK BEHIND ME YOU'LL SEE THAT I'VE KEPT THAT PROMISE

YES, HOLY MAN MY HEAD... AS WELL AS THE REST OF MY SCABROUS BODY! ALIVE! NO THANKS TO YOU!
THALL SAID YOU WERE DEAD!

WITHIN *MOMENTS*, THE WARRIORS HAV[illegible] THE QUAVERING PRI[illegible] IN HIS *CHAMBERS!*

I I *SWEAR* TO YOU, BORIN .! HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH THE ATTEMPT ON YOUR *LIFE* IN THE *TAVERN!*

I *BELIEVE* YOU, PRIEST! NO DOUBT THAT WAS *THALL'S* DOING! YET, *YOU* CANNOT DENY HIRING *HAGGARTH* AS MY *ASSASSIN!* I *HEARD* YOUR WORDS WITH MY OWN *EARS!*

IT IT'S ALL A *MISUNDER-STANDING*, BORIN A *MISTAKE! P-PLEASE!*

TSK! ISN'T IT A *SIN* FOR A *HOLY MAN* TO *LIE?* YOU WERE WILLING TO DO *AWAY* WITH ME BECAUSE YOU NOW POSSESS THE *MANUSCRIPT*, PRIEST! I SUGGEST YOU *TELL* ME WHAT YOU'VE *DONE* WITH IT BEFORE I *SKEWER* YOU UPON MY *BLADE!*

N-NO, BORIN I *SWEAR!* I I DON'T *HAVE* THE *PARCHMENT!*

LIAR! IT WAS *YOU* WHO TOOK IT FROM THE THIEF KNOWN AS *ETHAN!*

HOLD YOUR *SWORD*, BORIN! *HE* DOES *NOT HAVE* THE *MANUSCRIPT!*

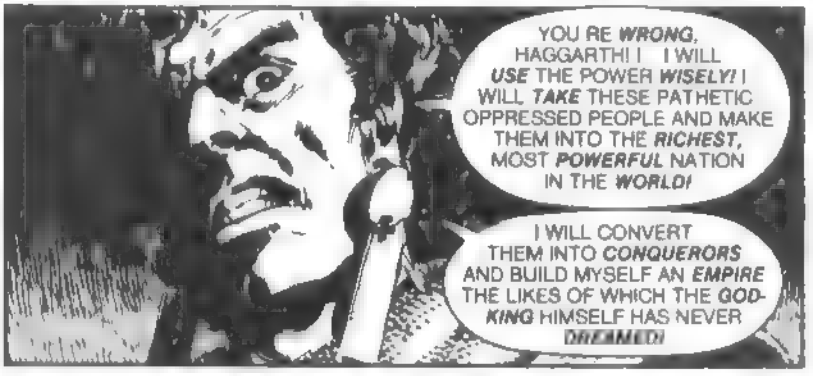
WHA–? HOW.. *HOW* DO YOU KNOW *THAT?* HOW *COULD* YOU KNOW, *UNLESS–!?*

YES, MY FRIEND! *I* HAVE YOUR PRECIOUS PARCHMENT! IT WAS *I* WHO TOOK IT FROM *ETHAN*, UNDER COVER OF *DARKNESS!* THE LITTLE BEGGAR DIDN'T *REALIZE* WHAT HE *HAD!*

IT WAS *YOU* YOURSELF WHO MADE ME *AWARE* OF THE *IMPORTANCE* OF THE MANUSCRIPT, BORIN! I HAVE WATCHED IT *TWIST* YOUR *SOUL* WITH THE SAME *EVIL LUSTS* THAT POSSESS THIS *PRIEST* AND HIS *MAD KING!*

YOU YOU'VE BETRAYED ME, HAGGARTH! THE POWER TO END THALL'S REIGN HAS BEEN YOUR'S ALL ALONG! YET, YOU'VE KEPT IT FROM ME!
THE MANUSCRIPT WITHIN THIS VIAL MEANS NOTHING TO ME! I CARE NEITHER FOR IT OR YOUR PETTY POLITICAL INTRIGUES!
IT IS YOURS IF YOU WANT IT, BORIN! YET, BEFORE I GIVE IT TO YOU, I WANT YOU TO LOOK INTO YOURSELF I SEE HOW THAT PROMISE OF POWER HAS CORRUPTED YOUR ONCE NOBLE IDEALS!

CORRUPT!? HOW DARE YOU CALL ME CORRUPT! WITH THAT SIMPLE PARCHMENT I CAN DECIPHER THE SECRETS OF ETERNAL LIFE AND TOTAL WISDOM!
TO MENTION NOTHING OF ABSOLUTE POWER! AND TO THINK THAT I ONCE MISTOOK YOU FOR AN HONEST MAN...ONE WHO FELT COMPASSION FOR HIS FELLOW MAN!
I SEE NOW THAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE FAR MORE SINISTER THAN EVEN YOU YOURSELF PERCEIVE! YOU COVET IMMORTALITY AND THE ABSOLUTE POWER OF THE GODS! NO DOUBT, IN TIME, YOU WILL COME TO SEE YOURSELF AS A GOD!


YOU RE WRONG, HAGGARTH! I I WILL USE THE POWER WISELY! I WILL TAKE THESE PATHETIC OPPRESSED PEOPLE AND MAKE THEM INTO THE RICHEST, MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE WORLD!
I WILL CONVERT THEM INTO CONQUERORS AND BUILD MYSELF AN EMPIRE THE LIKES OF WHICH THE GOD-KING HIMSELF HAS NEVER DREAMED!

YOU POOR BLIND FOOL! YOU'RE AS REPREHENSIBLE AS THE KING YOU DESPISE! YET, YOU ARE TOO TWISTED TO REALIZE IT! YOU CARE NOT FOR THE DOWNTRODDEN MASSES! YOU CARE ONLY...FOR YOURSELF!

AND THAT MY FRIEND IS PRECISELY WHY YOU MUST
...DIE!
AGHHHHH!

YOU'VE ASKED ME FOR BORIN'S *HEAD*, HOLY MAN, NOW YOU *HAVE* IT! NOT BECAUSE I FELT LIKE DOING YOU ANY *FAVORS*...BUT BECAUSE HIS *PEOPLE* WERE BETTER OFF *WITHOUT* HIS *OVERBLOWN AMBITIONS!*

GOD! DO YOU *REALIZE* WHAT YOU'VE *DONE?*

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT *TROUBLE* THIS MISERABLE DOG'S *DEATH* WILL CAUSE? UNTIL *NOW*, WE'VE HAD ONLY SMALL *POCKETS* OF *RESISTANCE* AGAINST THE KING! *NOW* WE'LL HAVE *EVERY PEASANT* IN THE *COUNTRYSIDE* TAKING UP *ARMS!*

BORIN WAS THEIR *LEADER!* BUT *YOU*, YOU *FOOL*...HAVE MADE HIM THEIR ...*MARTYR!*

AH, BUT ISN'T HIS *DEMISE PRECISELY* WHAT YOU VE *WANTED?* CAN IT *BE* THAT *YOU* ARE THE *FOOL*, THEN?

BORIN'S *DEATH* WILL INADVERTANTLY BRING ABOUT *ALL* OF THE THINGS HE WAS *UNABLE* TO ACCOMPLISH WHILE HE *LIVED!* IT WILL *STIR* THE *SOULS* OF HIS OPPRESSED BROTHERS FROM *ONE* END OF THE KINGDOM TO THE *OTHER!*

NOW THEY WILL HAVE A *REASON* TO FIGHT .. A *CAUSE* MORE *COMPELLING* THAN *ANY* BORIN COULD HAVE GIVEN THEM WHEN HE WAS *ALIVE!*

THERE WILL BE *NO POWER* ON *EARTH* THAT WILL STOP THEM. PRIEST! YOU AND YOUR *VILE KING* WILL *TOPPLE* FROM *POWER*...AND YOU WILL FLEE INTO THE DESERT LIKE FRIGHTENED *SNAKES*...OR YOU WILL *SUFFER* A MORE *HORRIBLE DEATH!* THAN YOU VE EVER *IMAGINED!*

I THINK *NOT*, WARRIOR! I WILL *WARN THALL!* WE WILL BE *READY* FOR THEM! THEN IT WILL BE *YOU* WHO *FLEES* BEFORE MY MASTER'S ARMIES!

YES...RUN, PRIEST...LIKE A *CORNERED WEASEL!* I COULD *EASILY STILL* YOUR PUTRID *HEART* YET, I STILL HAVE MINOR *USE* FOR YOU!

THE FRIGHTENED PRIEST RACED TO HIS DIMINUTIVE MONARCH'S THRONE ROOM, UNAWARE THAT HAGGARTH WAS CLOSE BEHIND!
I TRUST, HOLY MAN, THAT YOU HAVE, AT LAST, BROUGHT ME THE PARCHMENT?!

S-SIRE... YOU MUST FORGIVE ME! THE SACRED SCROLL IS IN THE HANDS OF A MADMAN!
WHAAAAT!! YOU DARE STAND BEFORE ME, MEWING LIKE A FRIGHTENED CALF, BLEATING THAT YOU'VE AGAIN FAILED? NEED I REMIND YOU, PRIEST, THAT I PROMISED TO SEVER YOUR IDIOT HEAD IF YOU AGAIN DARED FACE ME WITHOUT THE SCROLL?

M-MY LIEGE! I BEG OF YOU HAVE MERCY!
OH, DO HAVE MERCY, THALLI AFTER ALL, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING THE HOLY MAN HAS BROUGHT YOU THE SCROLL! I AM THE MADMAN OF WHOM HE SPEAKS!

KRASH!
AND HERE, OH MIGHTY BUT DIMINUTIVE KING OF KINGS, IS YOUR PRETTIOUS PARCHMENT!

THE MANUSCRIPT! IT IT'S UNHARMED!
AND IT'S ALL MINE!

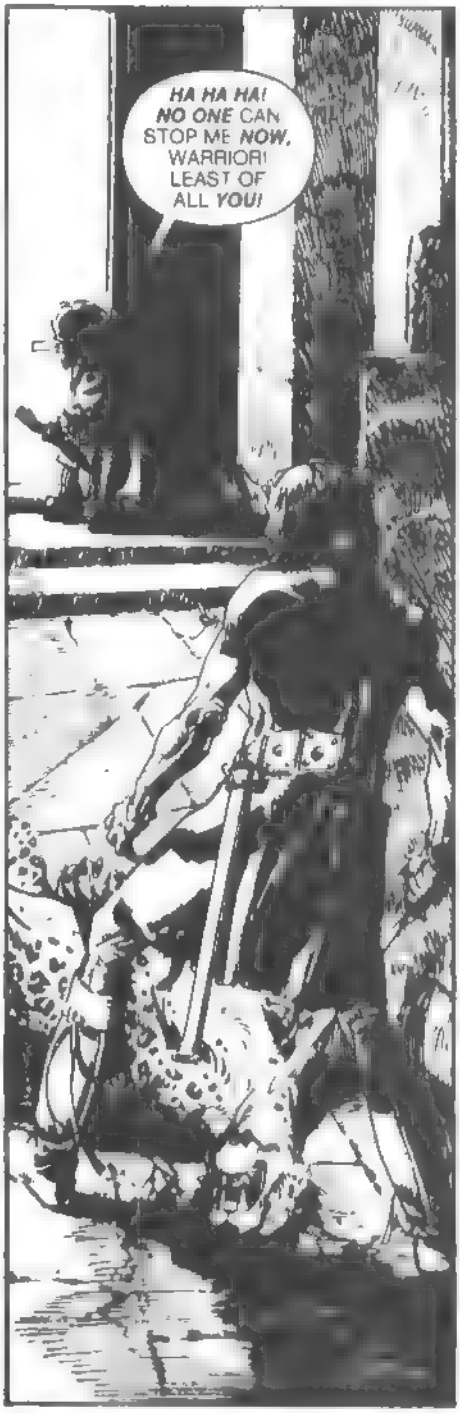
YOURS? WHY YOU TREASONOUS WELP!
KILL HIM, SHIGA! KILL THE TRAITOR!

N-NO, MY LIEGE! I I MEANT NO HARM! IT IT WAS A SLIP OF THE TONGUE! A MISTA–!
AIEEEEEE!
ROWWL!

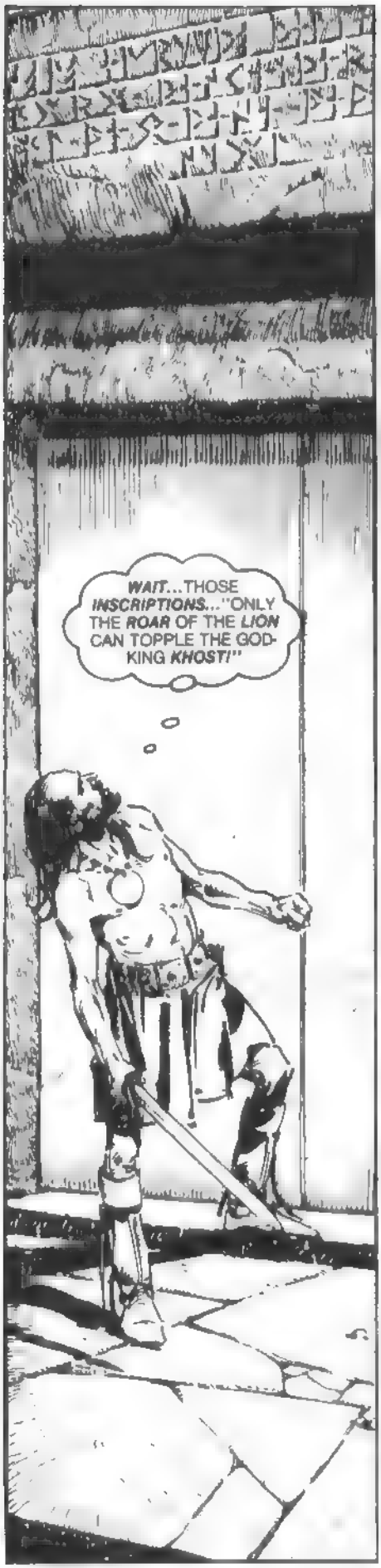
HEH HEH HEH! MINE! THE POWER OF THE GODS THEMSELVES IS AT LONG LAST ALL MINE!
TRULY, THALL? OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT ONE OF THE MINOR PAWNS IN YOUR DEADLY LITTLE GAME?

GET HIM, SHIGA! KILL!
YOU!? I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, WARRIOR, I KNOW ONLY THAT YOUR ARROGANCE HAS SIGNED YOUR DEATH WARRANT!

YOU CAN RUN FROM ME, THALL. BUT YOU CANNOT HIDE! I'LL FIND YOU, LITTLE MAN! YOU'LL NEVER USE THE POWER OF THE MANUSCRIPT!
ROWWW!!


HA HA HA! NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW, WARRIOR! LEAST OF ALL YOU!

DAMN! HE'S DISAPPEARED BEHIND THOSE METAL DOORS! AND. UNGHNNN... I CAN'T BUDGE THEM!



SAND! THE STATUE OF KHOST RESTS ON A FOUNDATION OF SAND! ONCE IT'S EMPTY, IT'LL BRING THE STONE IDOL DOWN!

SO EAR-SPLITTING WAS THE SUDDEN CRASH OF THE STONE IDOL'S FALL THAT THE FINAL, TERRIFIED CRY OF THE DIMINUTIVE TYRANT WAS NO MORE THAN A MOUSE'S SQUEAL! THEN... THERE WAS ONLY THE HISS OF SAND, THE SETTLING OF RUBBLE, AND... SILENCE!
WITH THALL CRUSHED LIKE A RODENT UNDER THE VERY GOD WHOSE POWER HE COVETED, A NEW DAWN WITH A NEW TOMORROW SHALL RISE FOR THE PEOPLE!

IT'S TIME NOW TO DO WHAT YOU *FAILED* TO DO IN YOUR *LIFETIME*, BORIN TO GIVE YOUR PEOPLE A *TRUE* AND *JUST* CAUSE FOR WHICH TO *FIGHT!*
THOUGH THE EVIL DWARF KING IS *DEAD*, THALL'S VICIOUS *ARMY* MUST *BE OVERTHROWN*, AND YOUR BROTHERS *YET* NEED A WORTHY *REASON* WITH WHICH TO FACE DOWN THEIR *OPPRESSORS!*
YOUR *DEATH*, FRIEND BORIN, AT THE HANDS OF *THALL'S PRIEST*, WILL BE *ALL* THE REASON YOUR BROTHERS WILL *NEED!*
BETTER A *DEAD TRAITOR* THAN AN *AMBITIOUS* AND *GREEDY LEADER!*
MY LABORS HERE ARE *ENDED!*
IN THE ETERNAL SEARCH FOR *ANSWERS*, IT SEEMS THAT ONE IS DESTINED ONLY TO FIND *PUZZLES!* SO IT WAS WITH *HAGGARTH*...WHO HAD SOUGHT ONLY A *PURPOSE* FOR HIS OWN *EXISTENCE!*
I MUST *RETURN* TO THE OLD MONK WHO *SET* ME UPON THIS PATH! I MUST *TELL* HIM OF *ALL* THAT HAS *TRANSPIRED!*

MASTER. . IT IS I, YOUR MOST UNWORTHY SERVANT!
MASTER, YOU TOLD ME THAT IF I LEARNED TO FACE REALITY, ACCEPT DISAPPOINTMENT AND SUFFERING, THEN I WOULD NURTURE FEW REGRETS, THAT I WOULD FIND THE INNER PEACE I SO DESPERATELY DESIRE! AND YET, I FIND NO PEACE! LIFE IS A PRISM WITH DIFFERENT COLORS, AND FAR TOO MUCH TREACHERY!

I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ONCE AND SAID MEN WHO NOURISH THEMSELVES WITH THEIR ILLUSIONS ARE WEAK IN SPIRIT AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY FALL WHEN FACED WITH THE TRUTHS OF LIFE!
ONLY THE SACRIFICES THAT WE DO SHALL ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING! LOOK BEHIND YOU HAGGARTH AND YOU SHALL UNDERSTAND!

HAGGARTH SAW MEN REJOICING AT THE FALL OF A GOD AND A KING THEY ONCE ADORED! ALL MEN CARRY TWO FACES AND THEY TURN THEM EASILY...EVEN BORIN, THE VERY BEST OF MEN! EVEN HAGGARTH, THE GENTLE WOODCUTTER WHO HAD KILLED HIS GOOD FRIEND, AND HAGGARTH, THE FIERCE WARRIOR WHO HAD RATIONALIZED IT WOULD LEARN TO RECONCILE HIS OWN DUAL NATURE!
end

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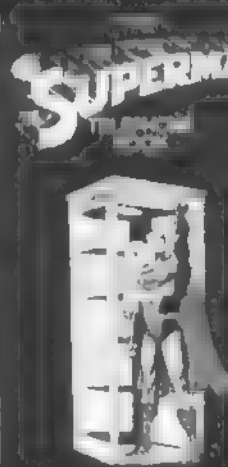
SUPERMAN

UP, UP and AWAY with SOME of SUPERMAN'S FAVORITE THINGS!



SUPERMAN TELEPHONE & ADDRESS BOOK A plastic spiral bound directory with room for [illegible]

SUPERMAN COMIC PAPERBACK 5 memorable adventures including the complete story of his life & more! [illegible]

SUPERMAN SEARCH A WORD PUZZLE [illegible] 24 super exciting puzzles! [illegible]

SUPERMAN ACTION FIGURES

From Superman, The Movie, here they are, the two biggest heroes and the two worst villains in the galaxy! Superman and his father Jor El, Krypton's greatest criminal—General Zod and Earth's greatest criminal mastermind—Lex Luthor! All are fully articulated with movable arms, legs and head and all come with authentic cloth costumes that are tailored for snug fit in bright colors! All are 12½" tall action figures!

SUPERMAN #26170—$14.98

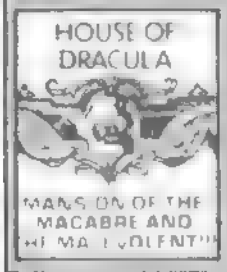
GENERAL ZOD #26167—$14.98

LEX LUTHOR #26168—$14.98

JOR-EL #26169—$14.98

UNBELIEVABLE HOME MOVIES! HEART-THROBBING - 200' REELS!

HOUSE of DRACULA



In this brilliant shocker the legendary Count Dracula is portrayed with sinister bravado by the great character actor John Carradine. As if he wasn't enough included in the guest list Frankenstein's monster & the Wolfman played by Lon Chaney, Jr. The three clash in one of film's most exciting battles! View this in B&W Super 8 only #22084 — $10.95

THE MUMMY'S TOMB

We are not in Transylvania but rather in the mysterious land of Egypt. Here is where the bandaged ghoul hangs out. Dead and buried for who knows how long? But is the Mummy actually dead—or is he in fact breathing through those bandages? Come a bit close and see for yourself! B&W in regular 8mm. #22229 — $10.95

FRANKENSTEIN MUST BE DESTROYED

Are you ready for this one? It's all new and all too frightening! The most horrifying "Frankenstein" movie ever filmed! See the most fiendish monster ever conceived. You can view this film in the privacy of your own home and scream to your heart's content. Super and regular 8 film in Black and White. Order #2234 $10.95

TROG

Here is the film that dares to reveal the fearsome pre historic half man half ape that survived the last ice age to terrorize a town of today! The great Joan Crawford stars as the woman who attempts to tame the savage beast. Can it be done or will it resort to brutality and terror to attain freedom? #2262 — $10.95

MASTER of TERROR

Robert Lansing (star of TV's "12 O'clock High") will scare you half to death in this chilling story of revenge. When a famous scientist discovers his fiancee and his brother have fallen in love he goes mad and uses a secret formula to walk through walls and commit murder. Plenty of action! Order now! #2264 — $10.95

RETURN of DRACULA

Francis Lederer stars as the bloodthirsty Count in this thrilling story of the restless dead and their unsuspecting victims. Fleeing from the Transvaal Dracula assumes the disguise of an artist. With his fatal charms he lures a young woman to certain doom and an eternity of night stalking and murder #2273 — $10.95

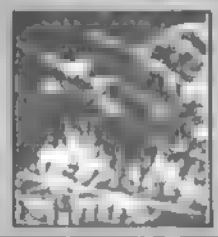
MONSTER THAT CHALLENGED THE WORLD

Would you believe a giant mollusk of vaguely lobster like appearance? Having been at the bottom of the sea for billions of years he finally surfaces for a breather and some food. None other than human blood. Then it's the U.S. Navy to the rescue. Have you any doubt of the outcome? Black & White Super 8 reg. 8mm. #2274 $10.95

THE SPIDER

It must eat you to live! You will be amazed at the size of (it's a beast!) It's hard to fight back against fifty tons of ugly creeping black horror! An entire brigade I see its best to stop the spider. Action galore! A Black and White fantasy film classic. Don't waste time in ordering! Super 8 or regular 8mm film. Specify #2275 — $10.95

FIRST SPACESHIP ON VENUS



You will be the first. The very first Earthling to see what is actually happening on the second planet from our sun! One of man's most exciting most incredible film journeys. Enjoy this wonderful movie. Plus on the same reel Preview attractions! See it in Black and White Super or regular 8. Buy it today #2270 — $10.95

GHIDRAH

Three heads are better than one. For this tri headed creature anyway. This beast is unreal! He cannot be destroyed by any weapons known to man. Where does this monster evolve from? A soaring meteor! Soaring into your home in a Black and White movie. Order yours today and specify either Super 8 or regular 8mm film! #2281 $10.95

BATTLES OF GHIDRAH

The three headed beast comes face to face with Godzilla, Rodan and Mothra. They are called upon to defend their home planet from the fire breathing baddie from beyond the Stratosphere. Action packed scenes! Don't dare miss this fantasy movie. Great! Super 8 mm Black and White. Order now! A classic! #2282 $10.95

MONSTER FROM A PREHISTORIC PLANET

A giant octopus and an entire family of winged flying gribbly type furies have the country of Japan in an uproar with terror and complete destruction. Their tremendous powers were unbelievable when teamed together! How do all of the people escape from their horrible fates? Available in Super 8 film only. B&W order now! #22068 — $10.95

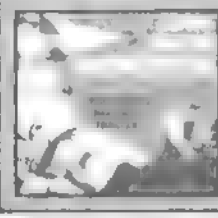
THE RAVEN

Good God! Vincent Price, Boris Karloff & Peter Lorre in the Edgar Allan Poe tale THE RAVEN! This century's horror and humor. It's funny. It's frightening. It's fantastic! This spicy spoof is a classic for the collector. Regular 8mm film in black & white reels only! #22078 — $10.95

WAR of the PLANETS

The Metalunan monsters strike Earth in a reign of terror. They kidnap two Terran scientists and bring them back to Metalunna. And that is just the beginning! Our scientists discover themselves to be in the midst of a universal war on a scale so vast and at a level of horror so unimaginable as to boggle their minds. A 200 reel Super 8 only! #2215 $10.95

MAN-MADE MONSTER



Shocks and thrills fly thick and fast in this time [illegible] Lon Chaney Jr. stars as the monster. Lionel Atwill as the mad scientist! He was a truck driver, a good man but an accident cut short his life. Should a man be brought back to life? Should man tamper with the unknown? Order now! #2284 — $10.95

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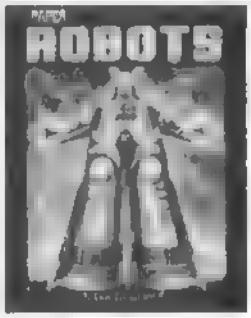
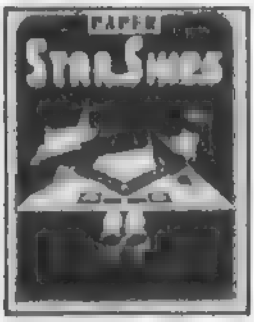
FLYING ROBOT, ROCKET & STARSHIP CUT-OUTS



#21420—$3.50

#21417—$3.50

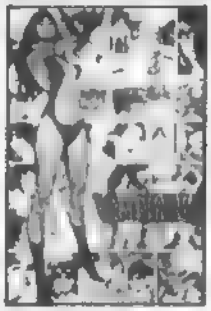


#21418—$3.50

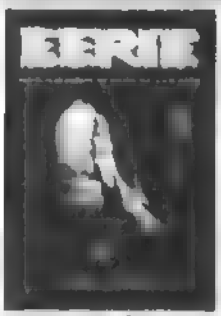
#21419—$3.50

ROBOT, ROCKET & STARSHIP CUT-OUTS: You color them, cut them out and proudly display them! Intricately designed alien and terrestrial starships and robots to dog fight with or fly a race thru time and space! These robot, rocket & starship cut-outs are imaginatively designed with "hardware" effects and are sleek and sturdy! You will take pride in the accomplishment of creating and flying these fearsome cut-outs! Order all four cut-outs today!

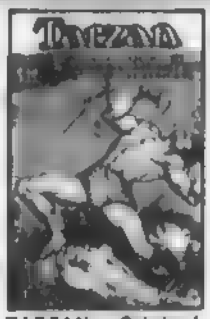
CLASSIC JIGSAW PUZZLES



VAMPIRELLA: Everyone's favorite in puzzle form by Gonzalez! 21"x15" size 500 color pieces! #24128—$1.00

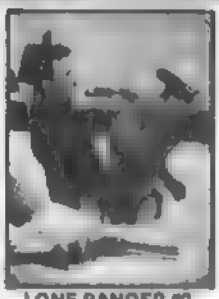


EERIE #23: The cover by the great Frazetta in puzzle form! 21"x15" size 500 color pieces! #2429—$1.00



TARZAN Original Sunday comics page by Burne Hogarth! Over 500 pieces! 20"x 16" size! #2455—$4.49

LONE RANGER #1
#2674—$1.39



LONE RANGER #2
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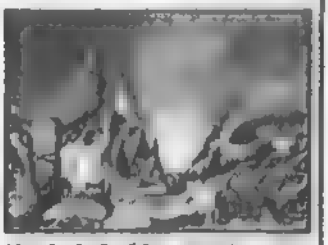
LONE RANGER #3
#2676—$1.39

The Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto ride again in a set of three exciting jigsaw puzzles! Each puzzle contains 200 pieces in beautiful full color. Each is a different photograph of the western hero in action! These puzzles provide fun and amusement for hours!

FRANKENSTEIN. Create a 20"x12" monster! Over 200 pieces in full color! #2673—$1.39

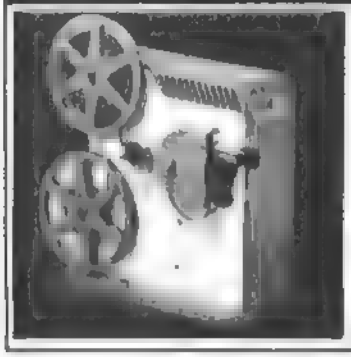
THUNDER LIZARD: Relive those old rough and tumble prehistoric days with this fantastic puzzle! Create the brontosaurus that once stood 20 feet tall & 80 feet long! 200 pieces & 20"x12" size! #2679—$1.39

LORD OF THE RINGS This fantasy of J.R.R. Tolkien's is the basis for this incredible 2-sided puzzle! Featuring a map of middle Earth & beautiful landscape on the flip side! Over 500 pieces in full color in a 21"x15" size! #24112—$5.95

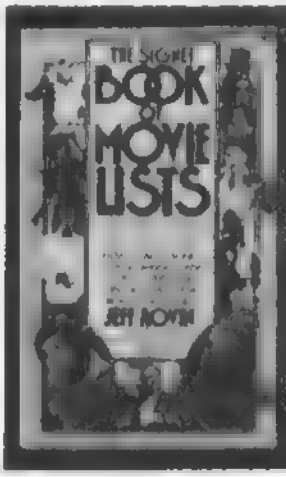


MIDDLE EARTH MURAL. This 21"x15" mural completes the "Lord of the Rings" series of puzzles! Over 500 pieces let you create a fine full color work of art for puzzle freaks! #24126—$5.50

MOVIE PROJECTOR!
FOR REG. 8 & SUPER 8 MOVIES



Compare this fine unit with others costing much more, and you will find that this projector is well worth buying! The full size is 9" x 5" x 10" and comes in a rugged metal housing. Blower cooled and handles 200 foot reels. Easy threading! Rapid motor rewind. Vertical tilt device. Manual framer. 200 foot take up reel. 150 Watt lamp. Easy to clean. Have hours of fun with this big, beautiful movie projector! #28010—$55.95



BOOK OF MOVIE LISTS

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

STAR WARS

THE MOST EXCITING NEW MODELS AVAILABLE!

NEW!

MILLENNIUM FALCON

THE MILLENNIUM FALCON Han Solo's deadly fighter-fighter is reproduced in all the incredible detail lavished on it by its creator John Dykstra. This enormous 18"x13" model has an illuminated detailed control room, movable laser turrets with full interior detail, illuminated rocket exhausts, hinged entrance hatch and ramp, retractable landing gear, movable radar antenna and the seated figures of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Chewbacca! Build this authentic Star Wars design spaceship. 2 "C" batteries not included and assembly is required! #24236—$17.95

IMPERIAL TROOP TRANSPORTER

IMPERIAL TROOP TRANSPORTER The electronic "hover-craft" troop transporter of the Imperial Stormtroopers is ready to swoop down on unsuspecting Rebel and Alliance bases! This transporter carries 11 action figures, has 6 special electronic sounds that simulate the real sounds from Star Wars such as the laser, engine and battle noises plus the voices of C-3PO, Stormtroopers and R2-D2's beeps! Each sound is activated by its own button. The front hatch opens to reveal a detailed control area with seats for 2 troopers. The manual laser gun and the rotating radar dish work in tandem. 6 side compartments hold captured prisoners and a rear compartment imprisons droids. This model comes with two prisoner immobilization units that fit on the heads of action figures so they can be brainwashed by the Empire! This highly detailed kit is molded in high impact grey and red plastic! Order Now! Action figures not included. Uses one "C" battery, not included. Assembly required! [illegible]

NEW!

MILLENNIUM FALCON

OPEN-UP MODEL

MILLENNIUM FALCON SPACESHIP This big, sophisticated, "open up" model of Han Solo's famous Millennium Falcon is a gigantic model that's a whopping 17"x8"x23"! Pushbutton activates the "battle alert" siren when enemy TIE fighters are in the area. Cockpit has a flip open canopy with seats for Han Solo and Chewbacca. The radar dish manually swivels 360°. This enormous model has retractable landing gear, a folding entrance ramp. Rear deck panel lifts to give access to the rear cabin where table and chairs are ready for a game of space chess. The cabin floor lifts away to reveal a secret compartment to hide the action figures from searches by the Imperial Stormtroopers. Fit your action figure into the command chair below the laser canon which clicks as it follows enemy craft. The Millennium Falcon has all the detail of the original ship. Action figures are sold separately. 2 "AA" batteries not included. Assembly required! #26194—$37.80

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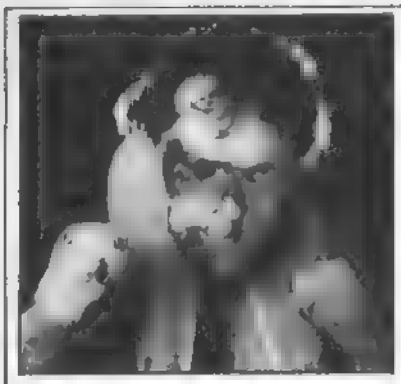
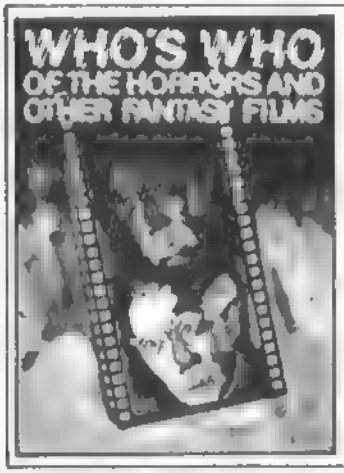


CASUALTY MAKE-UP KIT: Turn yourself into a horrible accident victim with this kit's easy to apply make-up and simple instructions! #26274—$9.95

NEW! CAST OF CHARACTERS HOLLYWOOD MAKE-UP KIT

VAMPIRE MAKE-UP KIT: Recreate the Master of the Undead with this kit's easy to apply professional make-up and simple instructions! #26273—$9.95



WHO'S WHO! EVERYTHING ON EVERYONE IN ALL YOUR FAVORITE MOVIES!

WHO'S WHO OF THE HORRORS AND OTHER FANTASY FILMS A lively and readable encyclopedia of the more than 1100 people involved in horror and sci fi films since the beginning! Over 300 exciting & rare photos make these films come alive! A comprehensive source of the cinema, this 8"x11" hardbound book is a must for filmgoers! #21425—$19.95

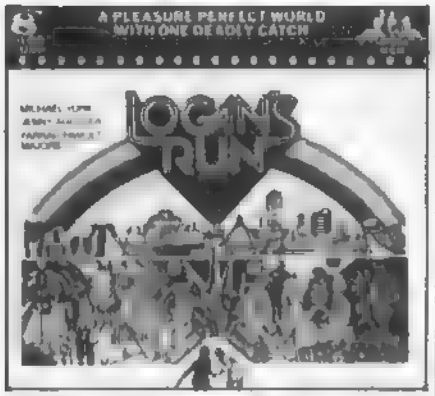
NEW! CAST OF CHARACTERS "CLENS" MAKE-UP REMOVER

"CLENS" MAKE-UP REMOVER: The perfect co-star to your fabulous make-up kit! "Clens" removes all make-up and adhesives from the skin and hair. "Clens" is made of entirely natural ingredients and was specially created by a Hollywood make-up artist and used by major studios for over thirty years! Unless you're planning to be a gruesome monster for the rest of your life, you'll want "Clens" to safely and gently remove all make-up without irritation! #26275—$2.50

3 SUPER 8 MOVIES WITH SOUND IN FULL COLOR!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS The movie that started it all. Science fiction at its best about the epochal visit of aliens to Earth. We are not alone! All the action and adventure plus the fantastic music from the original. 18 minutes, 400 foot super 8, in a superb color & sound film! #22125—$59.95

WIZARD OF OZ America's favorite all time fantasy film in which Dorothy gets whirled away from Kansas and over the rainbow! All the madcap adventures and all the great production numbers & songs are here. 18 minutes, 370 foot super 8 in a superb color & sound film! #22127—$59.95



LOGAN'S RUN Thrilling science fiction fantasy of the 23rd century where you are over-the-hill and dead on your 30th birthday! Farrah Fawcett Majors and Michael York seek to escape this dazzling world in this 18 minute, 370 foot super 8 in a superb color & sound film! #22128—$54.95

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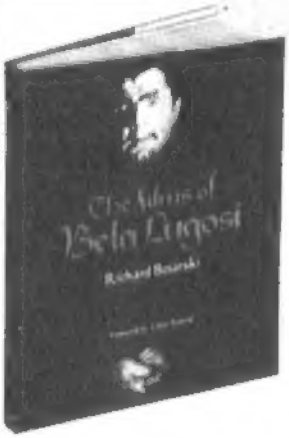
Four of Neal Adams' finest illustrations are reproduced here as full-color 11x14 inch plates! Included with this set is a full-color folder to contain both sets of prints! #29046—$7.95

THE NEAL ADAMS PORTFOLIO SET B

Four more of Adams' best action-filled scenes are reproduced in this second set of full-color plates! All the prints are suitable for framing. Collect all eight Neal Adams plates! #29047—$7.95



THE COMPLETE BELA LUGOSI FILM BOOK!

His birthplace mere miles from Transylvania, Bela Lugosi was born to play Dracula! Fans of the great Lugosi won't want to miss this deluxe, lovingly printed, hardbound volume! Complete filmographies of each of Lugosi's 100 films, including the 35 he made before "Dracula", and his 180 stage appearances! Oversized 6½"x11" format, 256 pages, 400 photos, intro by Carol Borlund! #21423—$16.95

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THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

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#26293—$5.50

YODA
#26295—$5.50

HAN SOLO
#26296—$5.50

NEW! THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK FIGURINES

FIGURINES: Four foes of the fearsome Empire are subjects of Craft Master's detailed vinyl rotocast figurines. Figures are 5½ inches tall and are depicted in striking poses from the movie. You color them yourself in any style you like! Each set contains one figurine, four acrylic colors, paint brush and instructions. Ever try to paint a taun-taun? This one will stand still for you! Luke sits astride! Also: Yoda, Han Solo and Princess Leia!

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK PAINT SETS

LUKE SKYWALKER
#26288—$2.95

LEIA & HAN SOLO
#26289—$2.95

DARTH VADER
#26290—$2.95

YODA
#26291—$2.95

Craft Master presents new Glow-in-the-dark paint-by-number sets with scenes and characters from The Empire Strikes Back! The paint keeps shining after the lights go out! Each set contains one 8"x10", 7 acrylic colors, one cup of glow-in-the-dark paint, a brush, and instructions!

BATTLE ON HOTH PAINT SET

BATTLE ON HOTH: Classic Hoth battle scene to paint by number! 10"x14" panel, 12 acrylic paint colors and brush in this set! #26292—$3.75

FANTASTIC PILLOW CASES & BED SHEETS

PILLOW CASE & BED SHEET: You will dream the dreams of a young Jedi when you sleep in these colorful, comfortable Star Wars bed sheets! Standard size pillowcase and twin flat bedsheet of soft celanese fortrel playfully decorated with full color reproductions of Luke, Han Solo, Yoda, Darth, C-3PO, R2D2, Leia, Boba Fett & Chewie on a sky blue field!!

NEW!

PILLOW CASE
#26286—$3.95

TWIN FLAT BEDSHEET
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